هكذا من الاصل

THE INDEPENDENT

Thursday 6 November 1997 45p (IR50p) No 3,447

INSIDE TODAY

HEALTH/5
Why fitness centres are bad for you

TV/20
Death of 'This Life', the true story

EDUCATION +
Universities turn commercial

TODAY'S NEWS

Animal testing U-turn

The use of animals to test cosmetic products is to end in Britain, after a dramatic change of heart by the Government. The initiative, which will be announced later today, comes two weeks after *The Independent* revealed Labour had reneged on its election promise to ban experiments on animals to test cosmetics. **Page 3**

Louise must still wait

The jailed au pair Louise Woodward must wait until next week before she knows whether moves to reduce her sentence will be granted. The trial judge Hiller Zobel made it known through court officials in Cambridge, Massachusetts, that his decision will not be released until Monday morning at the very earliest. The judge has to decide whether to order her acquittal, reduce the sentence to manslaughter, order a re-trial, or let the verdict stand. **Page 3**

Pilot saves plane

An Airbus pilot who safely landed 114 passengers and crew at Heathrow airport after part of his landing gear failed explained how it was all in a day's work. Captain Tim Barnsby said he had been confident he could bring down the Virgin Atlantic airliner in one piece. The company said the pilot made a textbook emergency landing. A total of nine passengers and crew were treated afterwards, all for minor injuries. **Page 4**

Snow keeps his job

The only person guaranteed a job with Channel 4 News when the programme's ITN contract ends in June 1999 is its presenter, Jon Snow. Focus group research shows he is the programme's biggest asset. Viewers believe Snow combines 'gravitas and authority' while carrying a 'whiff of the anti-establishment' about him. **Page 9**

Masterclass for gifted

Gifted primary schoolchildren could be taught in masterclasses as part of an expanded programme of specialist schools. Ten per cent of pupils for the schools specialising in technology, sport, music or arts, will be selected on aptitude. **Page 18**

SEEN & HEARD

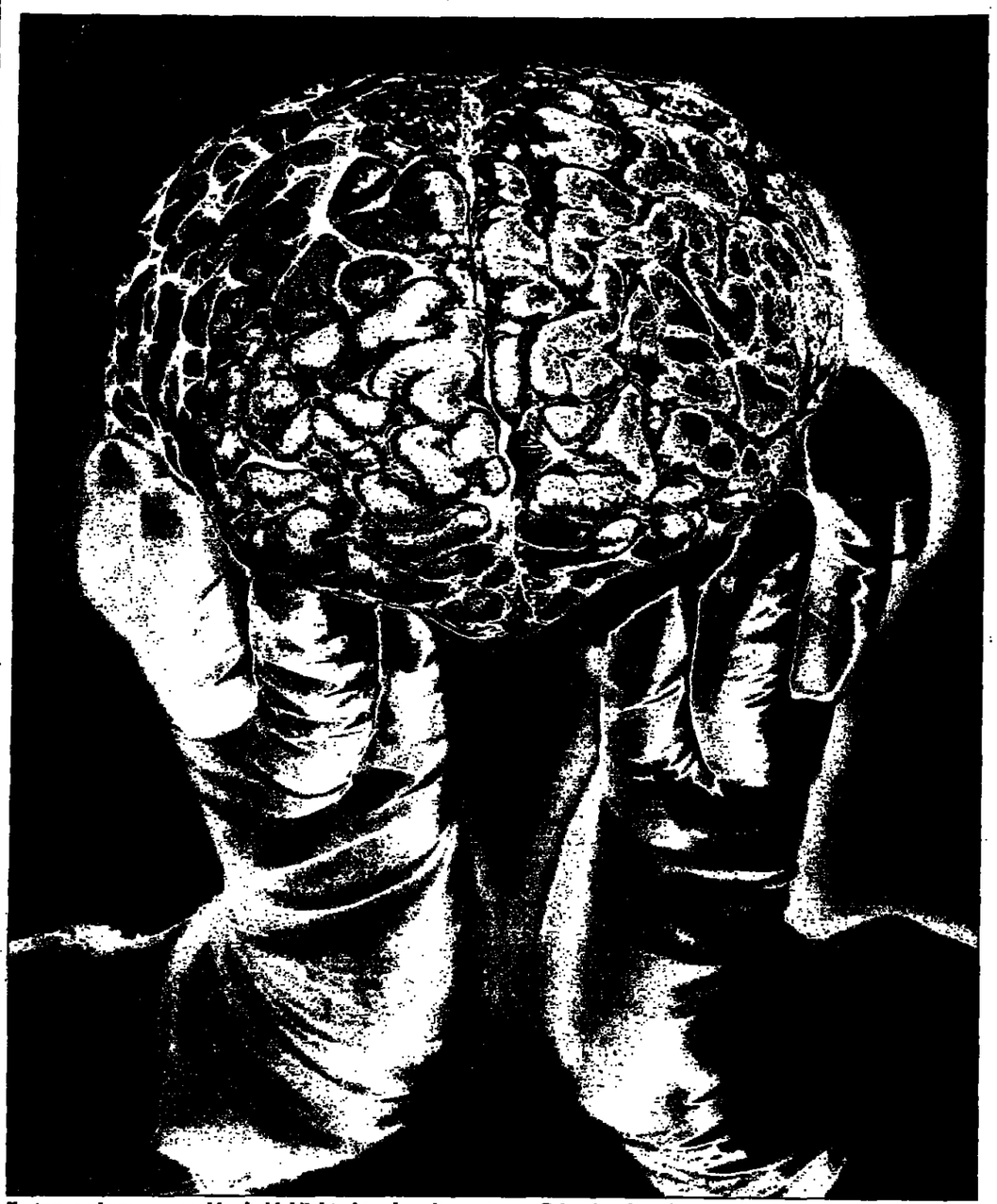
Are you now, or have you ever been, a friend of Bill Clinton? In an attempt to find all the President's women, a television advertisement is running in Washington calling on women who may have been sexually harassed "by the President" to make themselves known, giving a toll-free number to call. It has been placed by backers of Paula Jones – the woman who is suing President Clinton for sexual harassment, alleging that he exposed himself to her in an Arkansas hotel room when he was state governor. Ms Jones, who rejected an offer of compensation over the summer because it did not incorporate an admission of Mr Clinton's responsibility, now has new lawyers who are trying to prove "a pattern of behaviour" by Mr Clinton.

WEATHER The Eye, page 10
TELEVISION The Eye, page 12
CROSSWORDS Page 32 and the Eye, page 9

9 770951 946542 45

Web address: http://www.independent.co.uk

Proof positive. Taking Ecstasy permanently alters your brain



Ecstasy and agony: a real brain highlighted to show its contours. Scientists fear that regular drug-taking could lead to depression and suicide
Geoff Tompkinson/Science Photo Library

The first formal studies using brain scans show that regular Ecstasy users are permanently changing their brains. Isn't that bad news? Well, maybe, maybe not: our brains might take it in their stride, just as they do so much else. *Charles Arthur*, Science Editor, looks at the implications.

The brain scans are unequivocal. For the first time, scientists have demonstrated that long-term users of the "rave drug" Ecstasy are permanently altering their brains. The tough question now is, are they actually damaging them?

Though the effects of the changes could take years or even decades to show up, it is potentially serious news for the UK's estimated 500,000 regular "E" users, who each take one or two tablets every weekend. If the brain cannot compensate for the changes caused by the drug, the long-term effects could include widespread depression and even suicide.

That is because Ecstasy affects the production of a chemical that modulates how happy we feel. In effect, repeated use might leave the brain drained of that chemical. But scientists are still debating whether, over time, our most adaptable organ might make allowances even for that change.

The latest research by George Ricaurte, assistant professor of neurology at Johns Hopkins University, used positron emission tomography (PET) scanners, which can produce detailed images of active areas of the brain, to study two groups, each of 14 recreational drugs users.

The first group used Ecstasy and other drugs; the others used drugs excluding Ecstasy. Though small, the number is sufficient to pinpoint differences between groups using PET.

Dr Ricaurte examined the peoples' brains to evaluate the activity of the millions of brain synapses which release a neurotransmitter called serotonin – the "happiness chemical". The control subjects had normal levels of serotonin activity. The Ecstasy users, though, showed deficiencies in all brain regions.

Una McCann, one of the team members, told New Scientist magazine that this is clear evidence that Ecstasy damages serotonin-generating synapses: "The message is that if you're going to use it, do it in moderation."

But David Concar, the deputy editor of New Scientist and a PhD in biochemistry, pointed out last night that the case against Ecstasy may not be so clear-cut. "The really tricky point about this is whether you call these changes 'damage', or whether they are chemical responses to the drug which would in time reverse themselves." A scientist for the US Environmental Protection Agency commented that "there's no evidence of structural damage".

The knee-jerk reaction by drug opponents would be to point to this study as definitive evidence that Ecstasy does damage. Earlier studies using questionnaires have shown, though less convincingly than PET scans, that regular users of Ecstasy tend to be more depressed than non-users.

But that is not incontrovertible evidence of permanent damage. The human brain repeatedly demonstrates that it is capable of withstanding massive amounts of damage and rebuilding itself: people who have sufffered even serious strokes often regain many faculties, demonstrating that even real damage in which neurons actually die can be overcome.

Blair's cool Britannia is left out in the euro cold

Tony Blair will lay on a show of the best of British design, culture and food at Canary Wharf in east London for the French President and Prime Minister, who arrive today. But he will also be trying to prevent Britain from becoming politically marginalised in Europe by the creation of a single currency. *Anthony Bevins, Katherine Butler* and *John Lichfield* report.

Style wars were declared by the Prime Minister's office last night, as frantic London preparations were under way for the annual summit between Jacques Chirac, the French President, Lionel Jospin, his Prime Minister, Tony Blair and ministerial colleagues.

While the diplomatic agenda ranged over the customary points of mutual European and international interest, including the single currency and Iraq, the lunchtime menu, the furniture, the art to be hung on the walls, even the rugs and flower arrangements, were being given the full promotional spin by the Number 10 spokesman.

With a bird's-eye view of the Millennium Dome development site, an entire floor of the 50-floor Canary Wharf tower has been taken over for the summit, with Terence Conran laying out rooms which will be partitioned with opaque glass walls, complete with cherrywood doors.

Whitehall went to town on the furnishings and the young team of top British designers who are being provided with a world stage for their work – much of it already promoted by the Italians, who have spotted winning designs and provided some of the designers with work. The furniture designers include Jasper Morrison and Matthew Hilton, who have both worked for Italian manufacturers, Fred Scott, Tom Dixon, Terence Woodgate, Oubaholyodhin, Tristram Mylius, Lynne Wilson and Michael Young.

Rugs are to be provided by Christopher Farr, light sculpture by Jeremy Lord, flower arrangements from Paula Pryke – and the food from Anton Escalera, of the Midsummer House Restaurant, Cambridge.

But for all the assertive British cultural diplomacy, there is also a serious topic on the table: the creation of a single currency and the new council which will manage it from 1999. The Government will not participate unless and until it merges the pound into the euro, and hence will be excluded from decision-making on some of the key issues in Europe.

Britain's marginalisation took concrete shape last night as France and Germany unveiled details of their plans for a new "council" to co-ordinate economic policy making. They made public a letter detailing a bilateral agreement on the Euro-council.

The new economic "government" will be known as the "Euro-X", the X representing the number of countries in the euro zone. Finance ministers from the zone will meet before the regular monthly meetings of EU finance ministers to co-ordinate a wide range of areas, from budgetary policies to taxation.

The letter directly challenges Gordon Brown's assertion that Britain will set the agenda in Europe on employment policy, for instance. Among the areas the council will cover are "structural policies ... in particular employment and labour market policies on the adaptability of markets and on tax reform" as well as "evaluation of wage and cost trends". Britain will be excluded from meetings on these subjects.

The Chancellor made it clear yesterday that he is deeply unhappy with any bid to undermine the central role of Ecofin, the official EU council of finance ministers. "Ecofin remains the body that takes formal decisions," he said. Yet, according to French sources, Britain has been desperately jockeying to be granted at least observer status on the new council, a request neither Bonn nor Paris have so far been willing to countenance.

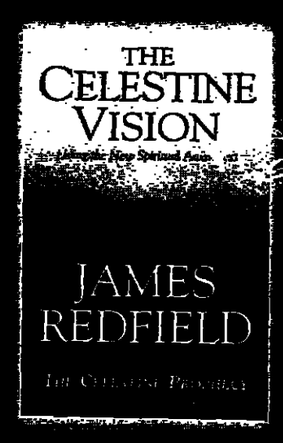
In Brussels for a meeting with fellow finance ministers, the Chancellor told reporters that Britain would not be sidelined. He said the Government's Commons statement committing Britain "in principle" to monetary union represented a "turning point" which would be enough to demonstrate the Government's pro-Emu credentials to its partners.

Mr Jospin and President Chirac will be seeking to defuse British hostility to the planned Euro-Council. France understands that the council is viewed with suspicion in London. But Mr Jospin will argue that the council will be in Britain's interest if sterling is merged into the euro in due course. It would provide a forum for some political and democratic management of the euro zone, balancing the purely technocratic and monetarist deliberations of the independent European Central Bank.

French officials are convinced that the Blair government has a schizophrenic view of the euro council. While Britain remains outside the single currency, it will inevitably be suspicious of anything that resembles the politburo of a hard-core Europe, from which it is excluded.

On the other hand, if Britain joined the single currency early next century, French officials believe the Blair government would incline towards its own view: that the euro council is an essential political counterweight to the purely monetary management of the European central bank.

How to experience complete spiritual awareness?



Simply share the Vision.

A deeply fascinating and illuminating book that reveals the inside view of how we are discovering the transcendental in everyday existence.

Based on James Redfield's own experiences and those reported to him from every corner of the world since the writing of The Celestine Prophecy and The Tenth Insight, this remarkable work describes the fastest growth techniques we all need to find our destined purpose in life.

OUT NOW IN BANTAM PRESS HARDCOVER

COLUMN ONE

Remembrance poppy row enmeshes McAleese

The Irish president-elect Mary McAleese yesterday said she would not be wearing a memorial poppy at her inauguration on Armistice Day next week.

Her announcement saw the simple flower, supposed to represent the poppies in Flanders fields from the First World War, firmly entangled in the briar of Northern Ireland politics.

Mrs McAleese, who was elected as Ireland's head of state last week to succeed Mary Robinson will be attending a Remembrance Day service on Sunday in Dublin. But she said she had decided "after long deliberation, apart from the shamrock, the president should not wear emblems or symbols of any kind". That included the poppy.

Her decision outraged many Tory MPs, and Ulster Unionists. Andrew Mackay, the Tory spokesman on Northern Ireland, said "It's obscene for Mary McAleese to confuse the poppy with any sectarian issues. It's a mark of respect for the millions of people who gave their lives in both world wars, including many thousands of Irish men and women."

David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist leader, said: "If she had wanted to make a significant contribution, that was her opportunity. It is a missed opportunity."

Mrs McAleese, 46, who was born in Belfast, and has been deeply committed to the peace campaign in the North, was responding to requests to wear the poppy from the Royal British Legion and other groups.

She was advised against it by Irish ministers, including the Irish Defence Minister, Michael Smith, who said it was private matter for Mrs McAleese but he believed that she could be creating problems for the future if she wore an emblem.

By announcing her decision, however, she stepped into a row over the wearing of the poppy north of the Border, where 20 workers at the Coats Viyella textile factory in Londonderry have been suspended for wearing the poppy against a company ruling.

Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, had been trying to calm tempers about the poppy and Mrs McAleese's dilemma. She said that she hoped the poppy was not going to become a "political football".

The row over the flower has reopened old wounds in Northern Ireland. Remembrance Day may be seen by some as a militaristic, support for the British Army, regarded by some nationalists as an occupying army. Others remember that many from the Irish Free State volunteered for the British Army, in spite of Ireland's neutrality, in the Second World War.

More recent events cast an even darker shadow – notably the 1987 IRA bomb atrocity at Enniskillen in which 11 people lost their lives.

Lembit Opik, the Liberal Democrat spokesman on Ulster, said: "The concern about poppies is a symptom, not a cause of the differences in Northern Ireland. When such events cease to be an issue, we will know we have made progress."

— Colin Brown, Chief Political Correspondent

CONTENTS

Leading stories	3	Education news	18
News	4	Architecture	19
The way we live	5	Obituaries	21
News	6	Leader, Letters	22
Media news	9	Comment	23
Politics	10	Business	24-28
Environment news	11	Sport	29-32
World news	12	Crossword	The Eye, 9
Holocaust	14	Weather	The Eye, 10
America votes	15	Television and Radio	The Eye, 11-12
Russian revolution	17		

PEOPLE

GERAINT LEWIS

The artist formerly known as Nigel ...

After five years in exile, Britain's best known violinist has relaunched, nay reinvented, himself.

Nigel Kennedy, still widely described as a "punk musician" at the age of 40, has let it be known that henceforth he wishes to be known as "Kennedy".

The artist formerly known as "Nige" or even "NK", has vowed to ditch his first name from all future recordings, concerts and public appearances.

Happily this coincides with the launch of his new re-recording of Elgar's Violin Concerto released this week. "I have never liked the name Nigel," he explains. "But what people want to address me as in conversation is up to them."

His publicist elaborated: "He has hated being called Nigel for as long as I have known him and a month ago he rang me to say he would prefer to be called Kennedy from now on.

"Naturally it is his decision, after all it is his name, though he's a bit baffled by the interest."

Others believe the name-change has more to do with a conscious mid-life decision to shake off his old scruffy, new-age soccer-mad punky image.

He had made it plain he would now prefer people to concentrate on his musical talent rather than his former barrow boy incarnation, typified by estuary English and extravagant gestures like spraying his Jaguar car claret and blue in tribute to his sporting heroes, Aston Villa.

Last month, Kennedy gave his first live performance since his "retirement" in 1992.

The critics largely agreed that he remains an outstanding violinist, technically brilliant and with a gift for making audiences listen hard.

He has not yet fully eschewed the "Nige" persona, however. He performed at the Royal Festival Hall sporting a new age haircut and a spotty waistcoat. It is partly through this "alternative" approach that Kennedy has been credited by many critics as the performer who introduced a new generation of young people to classical music. His recording of Vivaldi's *Four Seasons* has sold over 2 million copies.

His next live performance of Elgar's Violin Concerto, accompanied by the Oxford University Chamber Orchestra, will take place at the Virgin Megastore in Oxford Street, central London, on 17 November.

— Amanda Kelly

New neighbours stumped by Boycott's arrival

Sir Geoffrey Boycott, whose gruff tones have come to symbolise Yorkshire as much as the white rose itself, is abandoning the county of his birth to go and live by the seaside in Dorset.

The former England batsman and now television commentator enjoys near-legendary status in the Ridings, where cricketing achievement is widely seen as the mark of a man's worth.

But among the retired gentlefolk of Poole, his reputation counts for less. Two of his prospective neighbours asked "Who is he?" when told yesterday of the Yorkshireman's pending arrival at his new harbourside abode. "To be perfectly honest, I don't expect people would know he was here," said another near neighbour. "You only occasionally see your neighbour, although to be truthful I don't expect I would recognise him if I saw him."

Sir Geoffrey, 57, grew up in the coal mining village of Fitzwilliam. During one of his many run-ins with the Yorkshire county cricket committee he once boasted: "I have lived in the Wakefield district all my life and I have no wish to live anywhere else."

— Ian Burrell

Druid reunited with Excalibur

A Druid who thinks he is the reincarnation of King Arthur was yesterday reunited with his ceremonial sword Excalibur.

Arthur Pendragon's sword was confiscated seven months ago by police in Trafalgar Square. But, it was returned to him yesterday after a judge at Southwark Crown Court said he was satisfied Mr Pendragon, 43, was a genuine Druid and that the sword was used for ceremonial and ritual purposes. Judge Stephen Robbins made his ruling after reading reports from Professor Ronald Hutton, a leading authority on Druids. He said: "Professor Hutton leaves ... no doubt that this defendant's Druid credentials are genuine. It is not in the public interest to pursue this case."

UPDATE

WELFARE

Care of elderly seen as state duty

The Government should retain a major role in financing care of the elderly, according to a new national survey.

Most people are realistic about the likelihood of needing care in old age, whether in their own home or in a residential or nursing home the Economic and Social Research Council found. But there is a limit to their willingness to take responsibility for their own care – particularly financial responsibility.

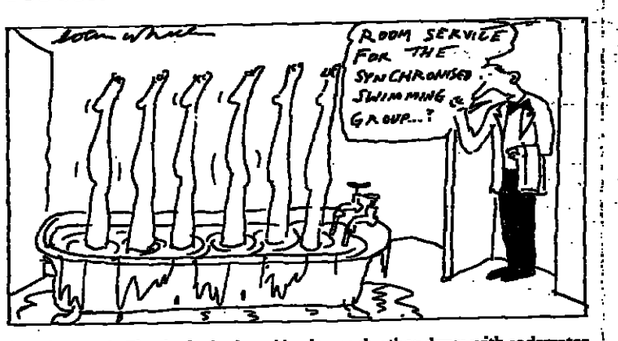
Most of the people the ESRC questioned believed that the state should pay at least the basic care costs and few were willing to use capital tied up in their home to pay for care. Private long-term care insurance schemes were considered unattractive, with only 6 per cent of the people questioned saying they would take them up. Two-thirds of those questioned said they were dissatisfied with the present means-tested system of state support, said the study, which involved almost 1,000 men and women.

A system based on partnership – in which the Government allows an individual to keep assets provided private insurers cover part of the costs of care – was a more popular option. But even here, only half were enthusiastic about this way of paying for their care.

— Glenda Cooper, Social Affairs Correspondent

LEISURE

Hotels' wet and wild side



Couples snorkelling in the bath and hosing each other down with sodawater are just some of the weird and watery pleasures of hotel guests, the AA reveals today in its *1998 Hotel Guide*.

Other aquatic anecdotes reported in the guide include a Chinese guest who asked for a goldfish to take in the bath with him to aid relaxation; a party of Japanese visitors who booked three rooms in Carmarthen, south Wales, but all used the same bath because they liked the view of the river Wye; a guest in Llangollen in Wales who flooded two floors and a banqueting area after leaving the bath running and going for a long walk; and a woman at a hotel in Ashburton, Devon, who complained that while she was bathing a dog had entered her room and run off with her knickers.

The sodawater incident involved a guest who ordered several siphons from room service and later apologised for soaking the bed and surrounding area. He explained he and his girlfriend enjoyed squirting the water at each other. The snorkelling incident came to light when staff investigating a flood discovered two guests in a bathroom wearing face masks and breathing tubes.

ESSAY COMPETITION FOR LAW STUDENTS

The Independent is sponsoring an essay competition for law students to win a free place at the College of Law. Entrants have to write an essay under the question "What are Law Schools For?". The winner will have all tuition fees for the course paid.

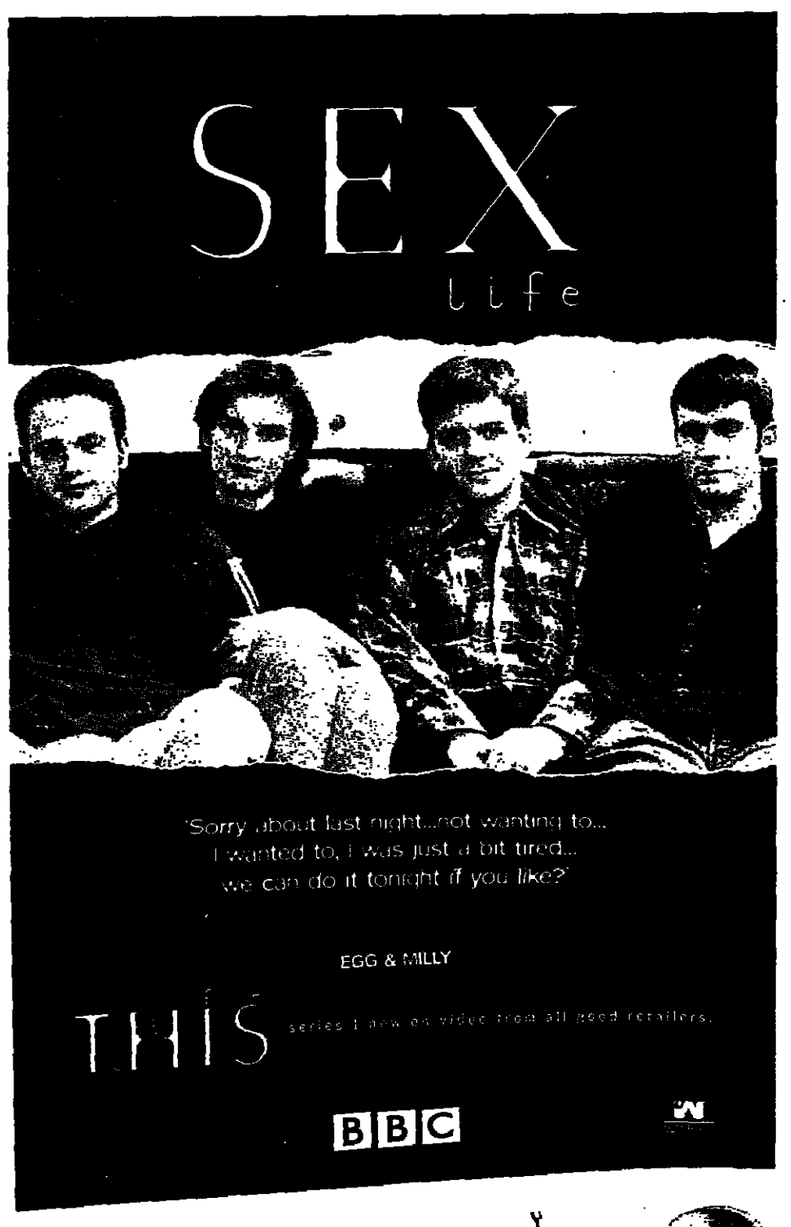
Last year's winner of the College of Law/*Independent* competition, Abdul Hoq Mohammed, gained a training contract at Lincoln's Inn based Towers and Hamlins.

Entries, in not more than 1,500 words, should be sent to: College of Law Essay Competition, College of Law, Braboeuf Manor, St Catherines, Guildford, Surrey, GU3 1HA. For more information contact the college marketing department on 01483 460350.

TOURIST RATES

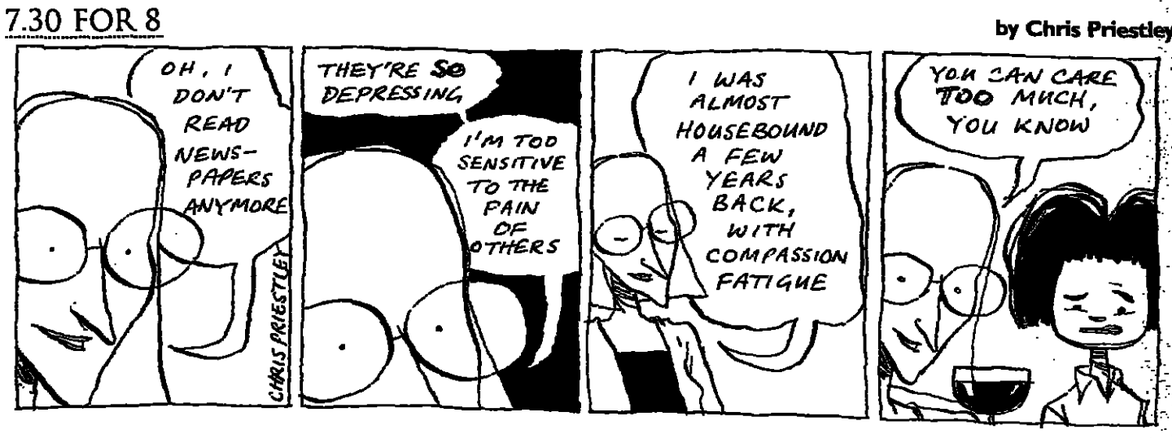
Australia (dollars)	2.31	Italy (lira)	2774
Austria (schillings)	19.79	Japan (yen)	203.56
Belgium (francs)	58.15	Malta (lira)	0.62
Canada ($)	2.29	Netherlands (guilders)	3.17
Cyprus (pounds)	0.83	Norway (kroner)	11.56
Denmark (kroner)	10.79	Portugal (escudos)	286.07
France (francs)	9.43	Spain (pesetas)	237.42
Germany (marks)	2.83	Sweden (kroner)	12.37
Greece (drachmei)	446.74	Switzerland (francs)	2.31
Hong Kong ($)	12.59	Turkey (lira)	295,346
Ireland (punts)	1.08	USA ($)	1.64

Source: Thomas Cook
Rates for indication purposes only



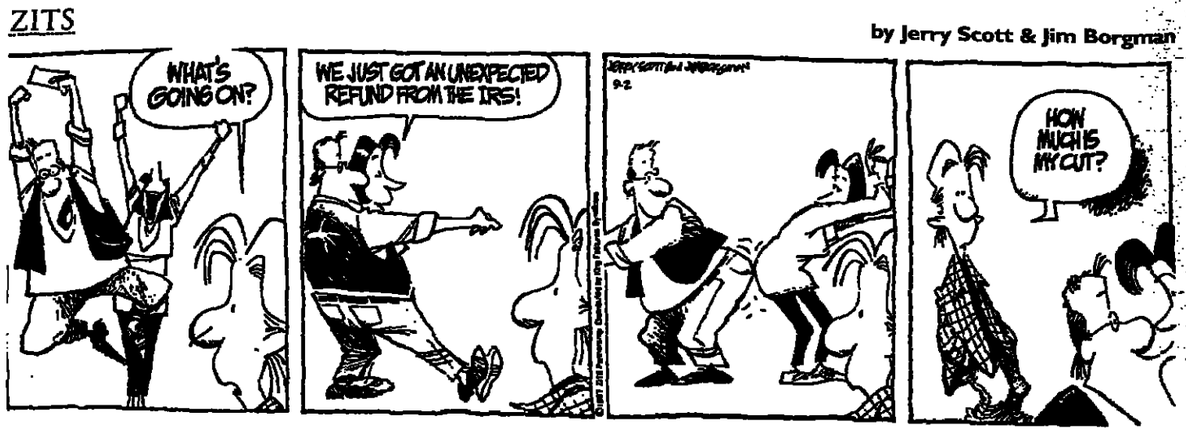
7.30 FOR 8

by Chris Priestley



ZITS

by Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman



هكذا من الاصل

هكذا من الأصل

Ministers stung into action to stop animal testing

The Government is about to make an important concession on the testing of cosmetics on animals. *Jason Bennetto* explains that although the move is a breakthrough it will only affect a tiny number of experiments.

The use of animals to test cosmetic products is to end in Britain, after a dramatic change of heart by the Government.

The initiative, which will be announced later today, comes two weeks after *The Independent* revealed that Labour had reneged on its election promise to ban experiments on animals to test new cosmetics. The disclosure caused uproar among animal rights supporters.

It is understood that Home Office officials have approached the five companies who have been granted licences for research on beauty and skin products and obtained an agreement not to carry out further animal experiments on finished goods. The voluntary ban will come into effect immediately and the firms are understood to have agreed to return their licences to the Home Office and have them altered.

Some animal experiments, however, will continue to be carried out on ingredients for cosmetics, because some of those used in beauty products are also found in pharmaceuticals. The Home Office, it is believed, are to press manufacturers and the Animal Procedures Committee, an advisory group, to produce a list of ingredients that are only used in cosmetics and then ban their use on animals. It is unclear how many ingredients would come under the new ban.

About 2,800 animals were used last year to test cosmetics, mostly rabbits, guinea pigs, and rats. The vast bulk of animals – 2.7 million last year – are used for medical research and testing pharmaceuticals. The vast bulk of the cosmetics tests were on ingredients, rather than the final product.

Among the tests were experiments to discover whether ingredients and cosmetic products had an adverse effect on animal's skin, eyes, ears, mouths, and reproductive organs.

The move follows a public and political outcry at the disclosure that the Government had broken promises made by Tony Blair in an official Labour Party document during the General Election that cosmetic testing was to be outlawed.

It also emerged that Home Office funding to develop alternatives to using live animals for experiments was cut this year by a quarter to £182,000. Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, said there appears to be "no realistic prospect in the foreseeable future" of an end to animal experiments.

The announcements provoked angry responses from a range of animal rights campaigners including the RSPCA and Anita Roddick, founder of The Body Shop.

Even Professor Colin Blakemore, head of Physiology at Oxford University and one of the most outspoken supporters of the benefits of animal research, told *The Independent*, that killing animals to test new beauty products is indefensible. He said there were already enough safe ingredients for beauty products.

The Government appears to have been stung by the recent criticism and has taken swift action. Lord Williams of Mostyn, the Home Office minister responsible for animals, is expected to outline the new approach to cosmetic testing later today.

Jan Creamer, director of the National Anti-Vivisection Society, said last night: "We are happy to see the Government take some action ... but ... they have not got to the heart of the problem ... The balance of power must be changed."

Nanny must wait to learn fate

Judge Zobel has the eyes of the world on him as he ponders whether he should lessen the Murder Two verdict passed on Louise Woodward. *David Usborne* waits in Boston for a man who does not like to be rushed.

You could almost hear the collective nerves unwinding in Cambridge yesterday like air escaping from a balloon. No, Judge Hiller Zobel would not be issuing his decision on the fate of Louise Woodward on this day, and indeed would not be saying anything about it until next Monday at the earliest.

"Oh, thank you. I didn't think he would," said Woodward's mother, Susan, when she was told in the lobby of a nearby hotel. "I suppose I can relax for a few days now". (She and her husband Gary have an exclusive, big-money deal with a British tabloid, so further conversation was impossible.)

Judge Zobel has the option of upholding the Murder Two conviction and life sentence passed on Woodward last week or taking one of three steps: reducing the conviction to one of manslaughter, order a new trial or throwing out the conviction and freeing her. Some experts thought a reduction of the sentence would be the most attractive choice for the judge.

Come next Monday, the Woodwards – including Louise in her cell in the Framingham maximum security prison – as well as the media – will once again be on high alert. Attention, however, will be focused on the Internet. Arrangements were still being worked out last night to ensure that the judge's plan to publish his decision in cyberspace will allow the journalists access to it quickly and simultaneously.

Eleven sites on the World Wide Web have been selected as venues for the text. The court will also send it to the e-mail addresses of individual journalists. One major concern, however, was how to guard against a cyberspace prankster publishing a fake decision.

Stepping out: Ted Turner, his wife Jane Fonda, and their friend Robin Laughlin (centre), leaving the Reform Club yesterday Photograph: Andrew Buurman

Turner warns of Murdoch's power in Britain

Global TV mogul Ted Turner was in town yesterday. And he went to town on Rupert Murdoch, launching his most vitriolic attack yet on his arch enemy. *Rob Brown*, Media Editor, was there to hear it.

Causing a scene would normally get you swiftly if courteously ejected from the Reform Club. But no one shuffled uncomfortably in their venerable armchair or choked on their cigar when a real verbal spat erupted yesterday in that palace of privilege in Pall Mall. The nouveau riche tend to be tolerated by the toffs when their as rich and entertaining as Ted Turner.

Besides, it wasn't the founder of CNN who started it. It was William Shawcross, who wrote a soft biography of Rupert Murdoch a few years back and, apparently, takes grave exception to the Australian-American mogul being demonised by Ted Turner.

"Is it appropriate for a businessman like you to compare a competitor with Adolf Hitler?" asked Mr Shawcross.

"I don't always use that word," replied Mr Turner with a large mischevious smile. "Yesterday I compared him to the former leader of Germany's Third Reich!"

"That's a stupid and cheap shot," the book author hit back.

But, Ted Turner wasn't for backtracking. In fact, he was just getting started, stabbing his rhetorical knife into the Dirty Digger. "He (Murdoch) is a disgrace to journalism who tries to buy politicans with book deals," Mr Turner drawled into the microphone.

"I don't respect him and I don't like him. What's happened to Britain is a real tragedy. People now know he's not a yummy yum from the Australian outback. He's a serious threat and came damn close to having this country under his thumb.

"I'm doing my best to block him around the world. I know his pressure points, especially The Sun, where the bare breasts are. He wants to stop doing it but he can't."

Actually, it wasn't William Shawcross who started the spat. It was Christiane Amanpour, one of Turner's own employees, who kicked off the post-lunch question-and-answer session.

The glamorous and intrepid Ms Amanpour asked her boss what he thought about the BBC entering the 24 hour TV news business, which CNN pioneered from its base in Atlanta, Georgia. His reponse: "I'm quite happy the BBC is starting a local round-the-clock newscast for Britain, which is aimed directly at Sky News. Anything that reduces the power in this country of Rupert Murdoch is good for England."

Mr Turner was also quizzed about his startling decision to pledge a personal donation of $1 billion to the United Nations. He announced yesterday that the money would be allocated by whoever he appoints to head a special foundation which he is setting up. "We all love our money," he said. "Even if you have a few quid you are happy about it. But money is only truly satisfying if you invest it to make the world a better place."

IN THE EYE TOMORROW

NEW FILMS

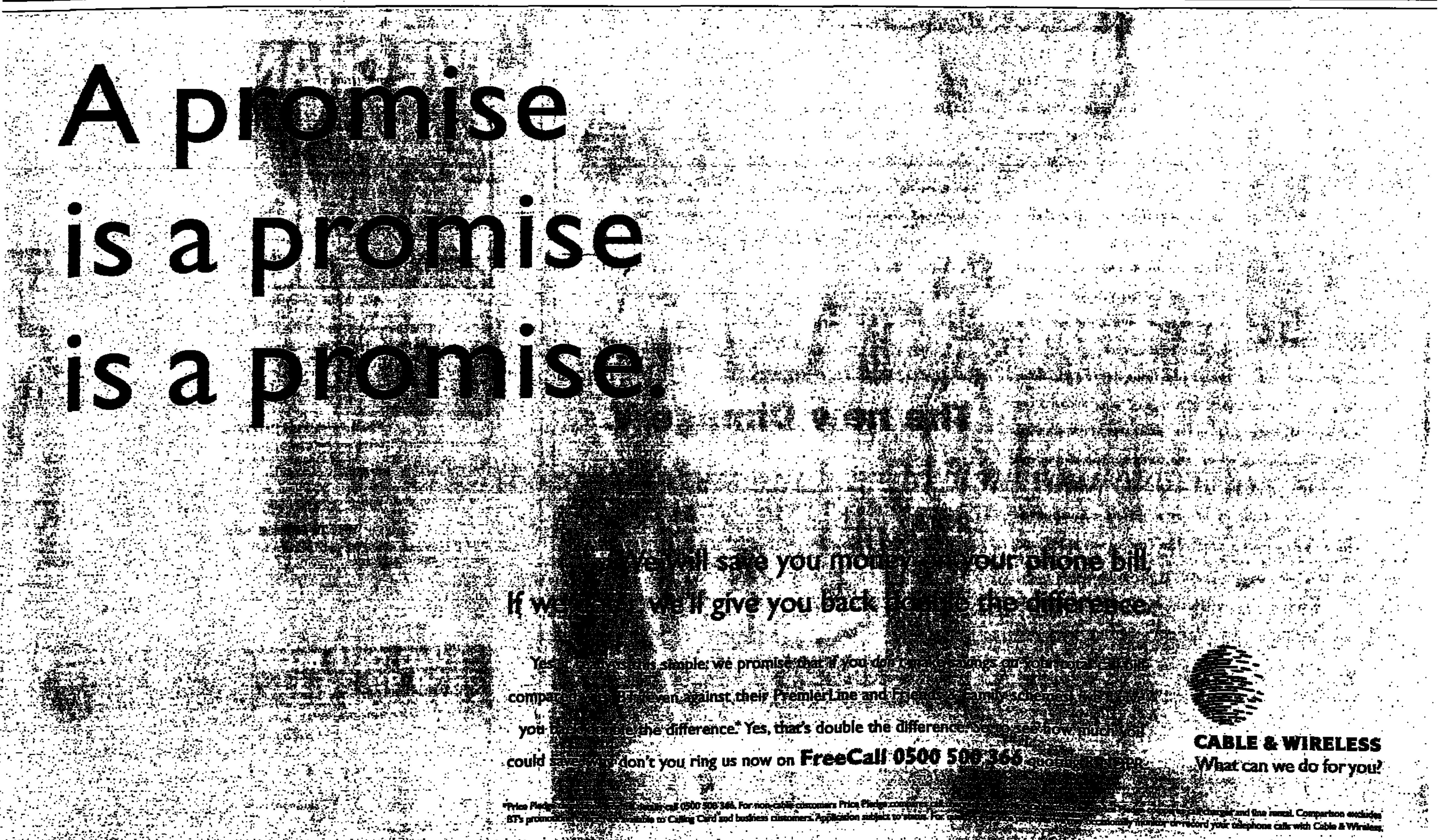
Ryan Gilbey on 'Face/Off'; violent but caring

LONDON FILM FESTIVAL

Are British films good enough?

PLUS:

Mark Owen, Lisa Stansfield, the Stranglers and Charles Lloyd



Jet crash-lands as landing gear fails

The pilot of a Virgin Atlantic Airbus averted disaster yesterday when he made a "textbook emergency landing" at Heathrow. As *Kate Watson-Smyth* hears, his actions prevented a tragedy.

Part of the landing gear failed to extend properly, but the pilot brought the aircraft down safely, with 114 passengers and crew on board. Up to six people suffered minor injuries – including two crew members – as they slid down emergency chutes in a standard evacuation procedure.

Witnesses described how *the four-engined European-made* jet slewed down the Heathrow *runway, sending off* sparks at the end of its flight from Los Angeles.

In a statement, Virgin Atlantic said the Airbus made a successful emergency landing at 4.20pm using three, instead of four, sets of landing gear. The airline added: "The flight had proceeded normally until the crew routinely extended the landing gear on approach to Heathrow. The crew received indications that the left main landing gear did not fully extend *and so conducted a fly-past to* enable a visual inspection of the gear to be undertaken *from the* ground, which confirmed that the left-hand gear was not fully extended.

"Indications in the cockpit confirmed that all three remaining landing gears had extended normally. The aircraft completed a normal approach and the crew *accomplished* a textbook emergency landing and came to rest on the runway."

Witness Rob Seabrook said there appeared to be problems with the undercarriage of the airplane as it came down to land, with one wheel-bay not *having* opened.

Another witness, John Asher, *said "He held it off the* ground as long as he could, I guess to reduce speed to the minimum, and as it did eventually touch down it was obviously quite one-sided.

"As it went down the runway sparks were flying and it slewed off the end of the runway, virtually out of sight and there was a lot of smoke around," he said.

As the aircraft circled the airport, onlookers realised something was wrong.

Estate agent Giles Newby *told BBC1's Six O'Clock News*: "It was in a position in the sky which *it shouldn't have been*, well below the cloud base. It was banking very severely. We were concerned that if it was going to come down, it was going to come down in a populated area."

Four passengers were taken to Ashford Hospital and treated *for minor injuries*, the London Ambulance Service said.

One of the two runways at Heathrow was closed and passengers on other flights were delayed.

Virgin Atlantic said: "There will be internal investigation as well as the Air Accident Investigation Board inquiry. At the moment, it is too early to say *what caused the incident*."

The airport chaplain, Reverend Brian Lacock, who was comforting passengers, said: "Everybody was very relieved. They were singing the praises of the captain for bringing her in.

"All the passengers were saying the pilot did a wonderful job and so did the crew. Everybody was praising them."

***Travelling light:* The Lord Mayor of London and the Lady Mayoress preparing to exit their official carriage outside St Paul's Cathedral during early morning rehearsals for the Lord Mayor's Show this Saturday** Photograph: David Rose

MINOLTA

Compared with the shots you can take with the Dimâge V, other digital cameras simply don't get a look in. Literally.

Because unlike any other digital camera in the world, the Dimâge V lens can be used remotely, when connected by its 1 metre umbilical cord. Allowing you to get into all manner of places. Exactly where, is probably best left to your own imagination.

A digital camera that gives a whole new meaning to the term 'roving eye'.

Just place the lens where you want it and what you can't see with the naked eye, you can see, record and play back, on the camera's colour LCD finder monitor.

Combine this with a lens that can rotate a full 180 degrees when it's on the camera, plus a built-in flash to throw some light on the subject and naturally, auto exposure and you really do have it made.

Powerful 2.7x zoom means higher resolution.

And the advantages don't stop there. The Dimâge V has a 2.7x zoom lens (equivalent to 34mm - 92mm) and Macro, which lets you get as close as 6cms to an object the size of a standard business card.

So as well as being able to get in close, you also have the additional advantage of being able to zoom in as well. Allowing you to get the exact shot you want. First time. Without having to use your computer to zoom in and consequently, suffer loss of resolution to picture quality.

As one of the world's great camera manufacturers, picture quality is something pretty close to our hearts, and something many of our competitors choose to ignore.

For example, unfortunately, many of them still use the same rectangular pixel CCD that's used for video. And because this rectangular system has to be converted, the quality of the pictures inevitably suffer.

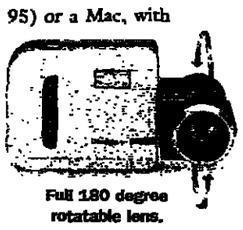
The Dimâge V on the other hand, has its very own 350k square pixel CCD, which means your pictures can be transferred to your computer with absolute minimal loss of image quality.

Postage stamp size removable SmartMedia card.

And the Dimâge V unlike most other digital cameras has a removable SmartMedia Compact Memory Card. Allowing all your shots to be stored on any number of cards. So you're not limited by a finite built-in memory. Other cameras have to store the information by massively compressing the data with a resultant loss of picture quality.

The Dimâge V's 2MB card will hold sixteen 'fine' images or forty 'standard' and there's an optional 4MB card available. And because the cards are removable, there's absolutely no limit to the number of shots you can take and store.

And all you need to take advantage of this amazing little camera is a PC (running Windows 95) or a Mac, with 16MB of RAM and CD Rom drive.



Full 180 degree rotatable lens.

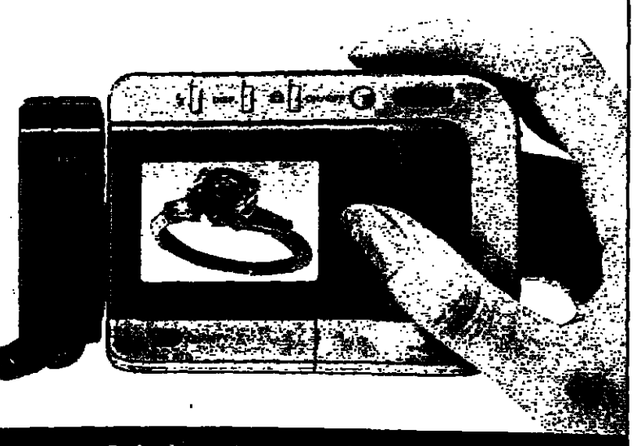
And when you buy a Dimâge V you get absolutely everything you need to hook up to your PC or Mac and download your pictures.

All this in a digital camera that costs just £599.99 including VAT.

It's available at most good camera retailers so you won't need a roving eye to track one down.

Just a finger to ring freephone 0800 731 6810 for the name of the one nearest to you.

The new Dimâge V.



Dimâge

Only from the mind of Minolta.

Minolta (UK) Limited, Precedent Drive, Rooksley, Milton Keynes, MK13 8HF.

'Dimâge' is a trademark of Minolta Co Ltd. 'Windows' is a registered trademark of Microsoft Co. 'Mac' is an abbreviation of 'Macintosh' the registered trademark of Apple Computer.

Doctors fearful of scientific fraud

A national body to oversee scientific research and investigate allegations of fraud is urgently needed in the UK, leading *medical editors said yesterday.*

Patients had been harmed *and the credibility of scientific* institutions damaged by cases in which results had been falsified, signatures forged and research plagiarised.

Speaking after a conference on research misconduct held in London, organised by the Committee on Publication Ethics, Dr Richard Smith, editor of the *British Medical Journal*, cited a dozen new examples in which misconduct had been proved or was under investigation. They included cases in which signatures of patients giving consent for research to be done on them had been forged, consent from hospital ethics committees to do research had been forged and signatures of co-authors such as a head of department had also been forged, to give the findings more weight.

One editor had told the conference how he had rejected *a paper claiming* to describe a cure for pre-eclampsia, the life-threatening condition associated with high blood pressure in pregnant women, which he suspected was fraudulent. A straw poll among the 130 present at the conference showed more than half of editors had had similar experiences.

Pressure to publish is intense because it is the only way scientists can gain promotion, grants and laboratory space. Dr Smith cited the case of Malcolm Pearce, the obstetrician struck off the medical register in 1995 for *falsely claiming to have* successfully removed an ectopic pregnancy and re-implanted the foetus in the patient's womb who later gave birth to a healthy baby.

— Jeremy Laurance

Deal near in lorry strike

Hopes were rising last night of an early settlement of the French truckers' dispute. The main federation of haulage employers, which walked out of negotiations last week, made substantial concessions in new talks at the transport ministry in Paris yesterday.

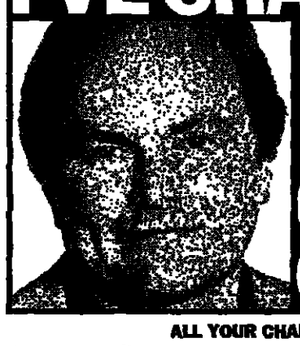
Sources within the negotiations said a settlement was possible by early today. The terms would have to be put to local union branches but the prospect of a lengthy strike now appeared to be receding.

Marc Blondel, secretary general of the Force Ouvrière union federation, said: "I think we are on the road to a solution."

Meanwhile, thousands of trucks all over France remained *on the road to nowhere*. The number of barricades continued *to increase yesterday*, approaching 200 by early evening. For the first time, truckers disrupted traffic in Paris.

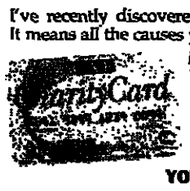
— John Lichfield, Paris

"I'VE CHANGED MY MIND ABOUT GIVING TO CHARITY"



ALL YOUR CHARITIES CAN GET EXTRA

I've recently discovered a new way of giving to charity - new to me, anyway. It means all the causes you support can have extra money. It's the CharityCard.



First you decide how much you want to give to charity. You pay that money into your own CharityCard account. Then the tax man adds more to it.

This means you have what you've already put in, plus an extra 23% to give away! Now, that's what I call a good idea!

YOUR PERSONAL CHOICE OF CHARITIES

You can use the CharityCard for making personal donations over the phone or by post. You'll receive a special Charity 'Chequebook' as well. And you can also arrange standing orders for regular gifts.

Who you give to, how much you give and when you do it are all entirely up to you. You can make donations to absolutely any charity you choose, big or small.

TIME TO CHANGE YOUR MIND?

Isn't it time you changed your mind about giving to charity? Call free now or use the coupon provided.

Clive Anderson

The CharityCard comes from the Charities Aid Foundation itself a charity, established in 1924. Registered charity no: 268369. Website: http://www.charitycard.org Patron HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh KG KT.

"FIND OUT MORE, CALL FREE 0800 99 33 11, DO IT TODAY!"

Please send me more information about the CharityCard™
Mr/Mrs/Ms..... Initials.....
Surname.....
Address.....
.....
Postcode..... Tel No.....
Please send this completed coupon to:
CharityCard, PO Box 1025, Stratford Upon Avon CV37 9GH

USA

CAF

هكذا من الاصل

هكذا من الاصل

Why fitness centres can be bad for you

Fitness centres can be bad for your health, says a new report. *Glenda Cooper*, Social Affairs Correspondent, investigates Consumers' Association claims that your pockets are not the only thing damaged by expensive fitness centres.

Leisure is big business these days as we all go for "the burn". A study by the Henley Centre think-tank predicted last year that the £1bn sports services, health, fitness and leisure club sector will grow by 60 per cent over the next five years.

But the Consumers' Association claims today that some fitness centres are not coming up to scratch for the amount of money that we pay them. Its magazine *Which?* sent two under-cover fitness inspectors to four private clubs, four public leisure centres and two large hotels with fitness facilities for residents and local members.

The inspectors asked how much classes and membership was, noted how helpful staff were, examined the changing rooms and checked out the range and quality of equipment. Then they took part in one fitness class and a gym induction in each centre.

In their opinion the private clubs came out no better than the public ones and said that improvements could be made at all the places they visited.

Aerobic instruction was "poor" they claimed, with seven out of ten fitness classes taught in a "mechanical and impersonal manner, with little or no contact between the instructor and individual participants". *Which?* said that some instructors did not bother to find out whether there were newcomers to the class or correct the people who were doing exercises wrongly.

An aerobics class at the Sports Connexion Leisure Club in Coventry was said to be "potentially unsafe" because the instructor paid little regard to the participants' needs. Mike Taylor, director of Sports Connexion was very disappointed with what the *Which?* inspectors had said. "In my view this instructor is as safe as you can get. He is RSA qualified and teaches around the area. I really don't understand it," he said.

Instructors at Meadowside Leisure Centre at Burton-on-Trent, and the Spiceball Park Sports Centre in Banbury were also said to be poor.

Mark Thornewill, Meadowside's leisure contracts manager, said: "We looked at the report and accepted we could improve in certain areas. We have introduced an induction scheme for beginners and an independent appraisal system for our instructors which is to be ongoing."

Mark Bremner, operations director of DC Leisure which runs Spiceball Park, said that while they welcomed any audit they had found the report "too negative".

Helen Parker, editor of *Which?*, said: "The poor quality of aerobics class teaching we found is particularly worrying. We want to see the keep-fit industry doing more to ensure that instructors have standard, thorough and recognisable qualifications." However, the magazine said that its findings should not put people off exercising, but it urged people to choose their centre carefully.

Going for the burn: But some fitness centres are not giving their customers value for money, according to a new report by *Which?* magazine
Photograph: David Rose

Now the easy way in for tipplers in a hurry

Beaujolais nouveau tipplers in France are to test a new, self-opening cork. *John Lichfield*, in Paris, samples the infinitely reusable and horridly named Kwik-Kork, which arrives in Britain next year.

Have you ever been on a picnic and left the corkscrew at home? Have you ever sprained your wrist trying to open a wine bottle with a miniature corkscrew on a pen-knife? Help is on the way.

The wine house which first popularised Beaujolais nouveau will send ripples through the world of French wine production when the 1997 version arrives two weeks today. Emile Chandesais, a major Beaujolais producer, will become the first European wine house to use Kwik-Kork, a self-opening but otherwise traditional cork (it is made out of cork) invented in Canada eight years ago.

A plastic piston passes through the cork; a plastic ring on top operates the piston and opens the bottle; it can be closed again with the same device. The Michel Picard group, which owns Emile Chandesais, intends to market 600,000 bottles this year. The marketing director, Jean-Pierre Durand, said: "We want to test the reaction in France and make sure we have everything just right before we sell abroad. We plan to send the Kwik-Kork bottles to Britain next November."

Wine-bottles with built-in corkscrews have already been marketed in Australia and South Africa. Mr Durand says French producers have been reluctant to take up the invention until now, partly through traditionalism, partly through a fear that any self-opening wine would be associated in the public's mind with the kind of flip-top, low-rent table wine which has been available for years.

"A traditional cork ... is necessary to allow a wine to continue to mature in the bottle," Mr Durand said. "We are satisfied ... that bottles with Kwik-Korks behave just like ordinary bottles." Michel Picard hopes to use self-opening corks with other middle-ranking wines such as Côte du Rhône but Mr Durand does not imagine we will ever see a Kwik-Kork ring atop a bottle of Château Mouton-Rothschild. " ... The best wines sell so much on tradition that, from a marketing point of view, it would not make sense." Mr Durand sees the benefit of the smart corks mostly in the market for good, medium-priced wines: in other words, just the kind of wine you might take on a picnic while forgetting the corkscrew.

Call for
cheaper home insurance.

Home Insurance DIRECT CALL FREE
0800 670 670
ABBEY NATIONAL
Because life's complicated enough.

Lines are open Monday to Friday 8am to 9pm and Saturday 9am to 6pm. To assist us in improving our service, we may record or monitor all calls. Abbey National and the Umbrella Couple symbol are trademarks of Abbey National plc, Registered Office, Abbey House, 215-229 Baker Street, London NW1 6XL. Registered in England & Wales. Registered Number 2294747.

We are the proud recipients of The UK Quality Award for Business Excellence.

BT

(Well occasionally you have to blow your own trumpet).

At BT, we constantly strive to provide products and solutions of the highest quality to all our business customers. And that's why we're so proud to have won the UK Quality Award for Business Excellence. We are delighted to have not only met the very high standards required for entry, but are the first telecoms company to have won.

We really have Changed The Way We Work for the benefit of all our customers, and to find out how we can help you deliver the same quality to yours, **Free***fone 0800* **800 800** and speak to one of our award winners.

It's official: size is all down to your genes

Scientists have uncovered the genes which determine the size of *your extremities – from your* fingers to your genitalia – and others which could decide how quickly you appear to age. *Charles Arthur*, Science Editor, explains.

It's in the genes: The French writer, *soldier and duellist, Cyrano de* Bergerac's large nose could be *blamed on his genes*

Jokes about big-footed men casting a longer shadow in bed might actually have some basis in fact. An international team at the University of Geneva in Switzerland, and the University of Michigan's Medical School has pinpointed the family of genes which determine how big your hands, feet, and even genitals will be.

Known as the Hox genes, they seem to be the dividing line between us and our most distant aquatic ancestors, because it is legs and arms which principally distinguish us from fish.

The team found that the embryos of genetically-engineered mice which lacked particular versions of the dozen or so Hox genes developed without digits or penises. (The mice died before birth.) That suggests that the Hox genes are closely concerned with the development of our extremities. If that is the case, then when one extremity, modulated by the Hox genes, is large, then the others should be too because their development is driven by the same gene.

But that factor also affects genitalia, for the possession of digits and external genitalia are the factors particularly distinguishing land-based animals from aquatic ones – suggesting that the Hox genes evolved in response to the need to move around on dry land. Writing in the science journal *Nature*, the researchers at the National Institute of Neuroscience suggest that internal fertilisation may have developed at the same time, since the terrestrial environment makes external fertilisation almost impossible compared to an ocean-based one. That could tie the Hox genes for all those extremities together.

But while the development of those genes lies tens of millions of years in our past, many people are now looking to science to offer hope for the future: specifically, to make them live longer, or at least help them appear to. Again, mice have had to stand in for humans. A Japanese team, also reporting in *Nature*, now reckons that a newly-discovered gene could play a part in how quickly one appears to age.

With cosmetic companies frequently promising to "slow down the appearance of ageing" with expensive oils, the concept that such a task could be tackled by genes instead may seem surprising. But the new gene, dubbed klotho (after one of the Fates, a Greek goddess who spins the thread of life), seems to be involved in a complex chemical and genetic pathway, which both regulates ageing and may influence your susceptibility to age-related diseases.

Mice with two faulty copies of the klotho gene grew and aged normally at first, but then aged rapidly and died of various illnesses including arteriosclerosis, osteoporosis, and emphysema, after about 60 days – one-tenth the usual lifespan of a laboratory mouse. From the experiments, it seems that the klotho gene is most effective as a regulator of the normal ageing process, ensuring that it does not run out of control.

The CO-OPERATIVE BANK

Low today.

Low tomorrow.

7.9% APR
Guaranteed until April '98

10.9% APR variable from April '98

UK's lowest standard rate

No annual fee

Keep your credit limit

No need to bank with us

If you carry over a credit card balance each month, you should seriously think about applying for a Co-operative Bank Advantage Visa credit card or gold card. Transfer your balance and you'll pay just **7.9% APR** (that's **0.64% a month**) on what you owe now and on all purchases until April '98.

Thereafter, the rate reverts to **10.9% APR variable** – currently the UK's lowest standard rate*. On top of this there's no annual fee, you can keep your existing credit limit and you don't have to bank with us. What's more, the phone call is free and the lines are open 24 hours. So what are you waiting for?

www.co-operativebank.co.uk

0800 33 99 33
Please quote reference 29420

Post to: Visa dept., The Co-operative Bank p.l.c., FREEPOST (MR8192), Manchester M1 9AZ or phone 0800 33 99 33 (24 hours a day, 7 days a week). Please use block capitals.

Full name ______ Address ______

Postcode ______ Phone number ______ 29420

Credit facilities are subject to status and not available to minors. Written quotations are available on request. Information provided will be passed to a credit reference agency for credit assessment, a copy of the enquiry may be retained. Payment is 3% of your outstanding balance each month (minimum £5) or more if you wish.
*Co-operative Bank Advantage Visa credit cards at 10.9% APR have no interest free period. Barclays Bank credit card at 22.9% APR, NatWest credit card at 21.9% APR.

Paedophiles face playground ban

Paedophiles and sex offenders, including people convicted abroad, could be banned from schools, playgrounds and other "risk areas", under proposals announced yesterday.

Offenders subject to the new exclusion orders will be prevented from going to specified areas for a minimum of five years. Anyone who breaks the order faces up to five years in jail and/or an unlimited fine. They can also be forced to undergo treatment.

The Home Office proposals are aimed at plugging a legal loophole and follow heightened fears that dangerous paedophiles are able to loiter in areas close to children.

The police will apply to civil courts for the Community Protection Orders and will have to show that the defendant was a sex offender and currently poses a serious risk to the community. The court would have to decide whether there was sufficient evidence "on the balance of probabilities". The defendants would, however, be able to challenge the order after five years.

Courts could not impose household curfews, under proposals by the Home Office consultation paper, which will seek views until the beginning of December. The order is expected to be part of the forthcoming Crime and Disorder Bill, and the measures would close a loophole in the recently introduced Sex Offenders Act which requires sex offenders released after 1 September only to register their names and addresses with the police.

Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, said: "There are a number of sex offenders who did not have to register under the [Act] who remain a risk to the community."

But civil liberties groups and lawyers are concerned that the measures could lead to the harassment of innocent people.

— *Jason Bennetto, Crime Correspondent*

Charities' rival to the lottery to be banned by Home Office

The Home Office is set to quash a plan by some of Britain's leading charities to set up a rival national lottery scheme run from public houses. The Pronto Lively lottery scheme, which is due to launch at the end of this month, has the backing of 25 charities, including Mencap, The Samaritans and ChildLine, and involves draws taking place at five-minute intervals.

Last night Lord Mancroft, the chairman of InterLotto, the company behind the plan, said the decision to block the new lottery could cost charities £100m a year. The Conservative peer attended a meeting yesterday with George Howarth, the Home Office minister, at which he said he was warned the scheme could "change the face of British pubs entirely".

The new game, which is due to take place at 2,000 outlets around Britain, would cost players £1 for each draw. The results of each draw would be displayed on a screen above the bar in pubs. Prizes would be small compared to the National Lottery, with a jackpot of £25,000.

Stephen Lee, director of the Institute for Charity Fundraising Managers, said he was "extremely concerned" by the development.

The Gaming Board had raised objections on the basis that it was dangerous to mix gambling and alcohol. The scheme had also been criticised by Ladbrokes.

— *Ian Burrell*

Jail may become holding centre for asylum seekers

Plans to convert a jail into a secure holding centre for asylum seekers and foreigners trying to enter Britain are being examined by the head of the Prison Service. The move to transform a former prisoner-of-war camp in Kent comes shortly after about 800 Czech and Slovak gypsies entered the country via Dover seeking asylum.

There is growing concern about the use of normal prisons to house immigrants, who often have to wait many months, and in some cases years, for their cases to be resolved. About 500 detainees are currently housed in this way. Richard Tilt, director-general of the Prison Service, is considering converting Aldington prison into an immigration detainee holding centre, in response to recommendations made by Sir David Ramsbotham, the Chief Inspector of Prisons, in his report on the Kent jail.

Sir David suggested making Aldington, currently a jail for low-security risk inmates, a central holding centre for all immigration detainees held in normal prisons. He said Aldington, is "geographically and physically, ideally situated" for this purpose. The prison is close to the Channel tunnel terminal at Ashford and the ports of Dover and Folkestone.

— *Benjamin Todd*

Duped surfers net refunds

Thousands of people who ran up huge phone bills earlier this year trying to download erotic pictures to their computers will get £1.6m in refunds from companies that rerouted their Internet connections through the former Soviet republic of Moldova. The United States Federal Trade Commission forced the payments from a number of US-based companies and individuals as part of two settlements.

Net users were told they needed a software program, provided for free, to view sex pictures at an Internet site in east Europe. But the program hijacked their computer modem: instead of dialling a local number, the modem was made to dial an international number in Moldova, costing up to $2 per minute. Any browsing the duped surfers did after that time also went via the Moldova number – at huge cost. Roughly 38,000 people were caught by the fraud. The case came to the FTC's attention when the AT&T telephone company workers noticed an increase in calls to Moldova.

— *Charles Arthur, Science Editor*

Arrested couple win payout

A couple arrested and detained by police for four hours on the way back from a wedding reception, and were later unsuccessfully prosecuted for assaulting officers, have received £18,000 compensation. West Yorkshire Police agreed to pay Roselyn and Christopher Fontaine, from Bradford, after the couple – who are black – sued for assault, false imprisonment and malicious prosecution. A police statement said compensation had been paid without any admission of liability. A statement read out in the High Court at Leeds described how the Fontaines had been stopped by police just after midnight in September 1994 while returning from a wedding. Later charges brought by police were dismissed by Bradford magistrates.

— *Michael Streeter, Legal Affairs Correspondent*

Six fantastic systems. One tough decision.

DELL DIMENSION™ XPS D300 MT MULTIMEDIA
- INTEL PENTIUM® II PROCESSOR 300MHZ
- INTEL 440LX PCISET
- 64MB HIGH PERFORMANCE SDRAM
- 512KB INTERNAL CACHE
- 6.4GB HARD DRIVE
- STB VELOCITY nVIDIA AGP VIDEO CARD WITH 4 MB SGRAM VIDEO MEMORY
- HIGH PERFORMANCE TRINITRON TCO 17" COLOUR SVGA MONITOR (0.26 DOT PITCH, 15.65" VIEWABLE AREA)
- 3 PCI, 1 ISA, 1 PCI/ISA SHARED AND 1 AGP EXPANSION SLOTS
- 12-24X CD-ROM DRIVE
- AWE 64 SOUND CARD AND ALTEC LANSING ACS290 SPEAKERS WITH SUB-WOOFER
- IOMEGA ZIP DRIVE WITH 3 CARTRIDGES
- MINI TOWER CHASSIS
- MICROSOFT® OFFICE 97 SMALL BUSINESS EDITION

£1,799 (£2,149.07 INC. DELIVERY & VAT)

DELL DIMENSION XPS D266
- INTEL PENTIUM II PROCESSOR 266MHZ
- INTEL 440LX PCISET
- 64MB HIGH PERFORMANCE SDRAM
- 512KB INTERNAL CACHE
- 6.4GB HARD DRIVE
- STB VELOCITY nVIDIA AGP VIDEO CARD WITH 4 MB SGRAM VIDEO MEMORY
- 17" COLOUR SVGA MONITOR (0.26 DOT PITCH, 15.9" VIEWABLE AREA)
- 3 PCI, 1 ISA, 1 PCI/ISA SHARED AND 1 AGP EXPANSION SLOTS
- 12-24X CD-ROM DRIVE
- INTEGRATED YAMAHA WAVETABLE SOUND (SPEAKERS OPTIONAL)
- MID-SIZED DESKTOP CHASSIS
- MICROSOFT OFFICE 97 SMALL BUSINESS EDITION

£1,449 (£1,737.82 INC. DELIVERY & VAT)

DELL DIMENSION™ XPS D300
- AS ABOVE BUT WITH INTEL PENTIUM II PROCESSOR 300MHZ, TRINITRON TCO 17" COLOUR SVGA MONITOR (15.65" VIS), 8.4GB HARD DRIVE

£1,679 (£2,008.08 INC. DELIVERY & VAT)

DELL DIMENSION™ XPS D233 MT MULTIMEDIA
- INTEL PENTIUM II PROCESSOR 233MHZ
- INTEL 440LX PCISET
- 64MB HIGH PERFORMANCE SDRAM
- 512KB INTERNAL CACHE
- 6.4GB HARD DRIVE
- STB VELOCITY nVIDIA AGP VIDEO CARD WITH 4 MB SGRAM VIDEO MEMORY
- 17" COLOUR SVGA MONITOR (0.28 DOT PITCH, 15.9" VIEWABLE AREA)
- 3 PCI, 1 ISA, 1 PCI/ISA SHARED AND 1 AGP EXPANSION SLOTS
- 12-24X CD-ROM DRIVE
- INTEGRATED YAMAHA WAVETABLE SOUND PLUS ACS90 SPEAKERS
- UPGRADE TO ACS290 SPEAKERS PLUS SUB-WOOFER FOR ONLY £50 (£58.75 INC VAT)
- 56KB MODEM
- MINI TOWER CHASSIS
- MICROSOFT OFFICE 97 SMALL BUSINESS EDITION

£1,399 (£1,679.08 INC. DELIVERY & VAT)

DELL DIMENSION™ XPS D266 MT
- AS ABOVE BUT WITH INTEL PENTIUM II PROCESSOR 266MHZ

£1,499 (£1,796.58 INC. DELIVERY & VAT)

intel inside pentium®II

DELL DIMENSION™ XPS D233
- INTEL PENTIUM II PROCESSOR 233MHZ
- INTEL 440LX PCISET
- 32MB HIGH PERFORMANCE SDRAM
- 512KB INTERNAL CACHE
- 4.3GB HARD DRIVE
- STB VELOCITY nVIDIA AGP VIDEO CARD WITH 4 MB SGRAM VIDEO MEMORY
- 17" COLOUR SVGA MONITOR (0.28 DOT PITCH 15.9" VIEWABLE AREA)
- 3 PCI, 1 ISA, 1 PCI/ISA SHARED AND 1 AGP EXPANSION SLOTS
- 12-24X CD-ROM DRIVE
- INTEGRATED YAMAHA WAVETABLE SOUND (SPEAKERS OPTIONAL)
- MID-SIZED DESKTOP CHASSIS
- MICROSOFT OFFICE 97 SMALL BUSINESS EDITION

£1,249 (£1,502.83 INC. DELIVERY & VAT)

With these six incredible offers on Pentium® II processor based systems the only decision you'll have to make is which one to buy. But what else would you expect from the world's largest direct PC manufacturer*? And the next decision is whether to pick up the phone or visit our website to place your order. *Source: IDC

GET ONLINE TO THE NUMBER ONE
0870 ...
BETWEEN 8AM & 8PM WEEKDAYS

To order online 24 hours: www.dell.com/uk

DELL®

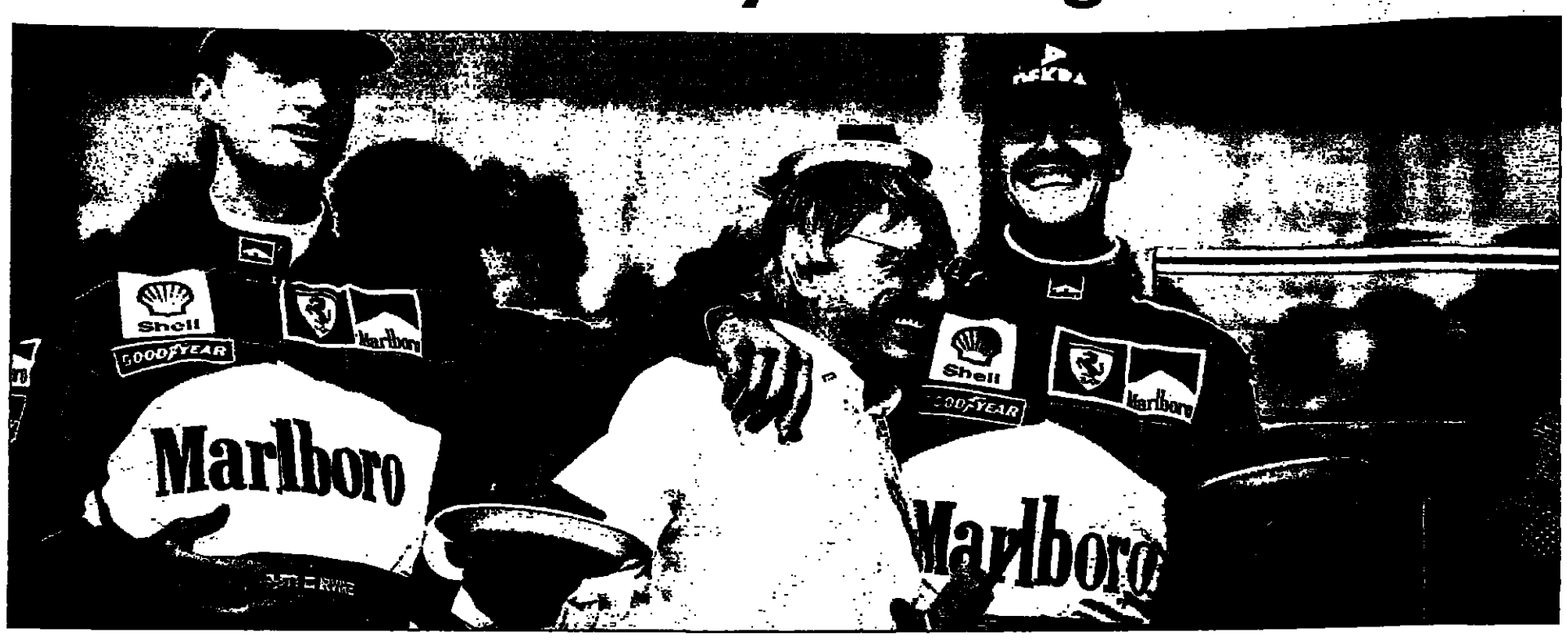
Dell and the Dell logo are registered trademarks and Dell Dimension is a trademark of Dell Computer Corporation. The Intel Inside logo and Pentium are registered trademarks and MMX is a trademark of Intel Corporation. Microsoft and Windows are registered trademarks and Office 97 is a trademark of the Microsoft Corporation. Delivery at £30 (£35.25 incl VAT) per system. Finance is available subject to status. Full details available on request. Prices correct at date of publication. The photographed product may not always match the specifications in this advert. Prices quoted refer to specification descriptions only. The prices listed reflect the information available at the time of going to press. Prices change frequently. All prices and specifications are subject to change without prior notice or obligation. Offer supplied with Windows 95. Microsoft Office Software reference tools are supplied on CD in hypertext format for Dimension PCs. Dell mouse and keyboard included. Dell Products c/o Milbanke House, Western Road, Bracknell, Berkshire RG12 1RD. Offer available for a limited period only. Dell terms and conditions of sales and service apply.

هكذا من الاصل

هكذا من الاصل

How Blair's ear was bent by the king of Formula One

Formula One racing was exempted from a tobacco sponsorship ban after lobbying by a former Labour aide, it emerged last night. *Fran Abrams* and *Katherine Butler* reveal Tony Blair met motor racing officials after representations from David Ward, an adviser to the labour leader John Smith until his death in 1994, who now works for the sport's governing body.



Bernie Ecclestone and two stars of F1 – Michael Schumacher, left, and Eddie Irvine – at the German driver's 100th grand prix
Photograph: Allsport

The Prime Minister had "numerous" meetings with leading Formula One officials, Mr Ward said last night. They attended a Downing Street reception as well as meeting Tessa Jowell, the Secretary of State for Health, and Tony Banks, the sports minister.

Some other sports which received less favourable treatment said that although they corresponded with ministers about the ban, they only met officials.

Mr Ward left the Labour Party to work as a consultant in Brussels after Mr Smith's death and now works exclusively for the Federation Internationale de l'Automobile, which among other things acts as a governing body for motor sport. He said he did not believe he received special treatment, though he added that the Government's decision came in response to a proposal from FIA, of which he is European director general.

"Of course it is helpful that I know a lot of the individuals, but ... the Government said when they announced this that they wanted to consult with all the relevant parties. We have simply taken up the offer. I am sure a lot of other sporting bodies have done that. I don't think there has been any special favour to me," he said.

The president of the FIA, Max Mosley, has met Mr Blair and so has Bernie Ecclestone, founder of the Formula One Constructors' Association.

A proposal made to ministers last month by the FIA argued that a European ban on tobacco sponsorship would simply drive Formula One events to the Far East – an argument which has been accepted by ministers. It also adds that the body would be happy to help cut tobacco sponsorship of Formula One through a voluntary scheme.

Mr Ward pointed out that neither he nor his organisation received any money from tobacco sponsorship, although Formula One events are backed by it.

Last night representatives of other sports expressed anger at the contrast between their treatment and that of Formula One. Robert Holmes, spokesman for the British Darts Organisation, said he believed the motor sport had received preferential treatment. "At the last meeting I attended about this the FIA were not represented. The other affected sports were looking to make a united stance on this but we were told they were having their own meeting," he said.

John Redwood, the Conservatives' Trade and Industry spokesman, said: "The Labour government has to explain to other sports why they weren't treated similarly to Formula One. It is not the only sport which is global."

The Government's decision to press for Formula One to be left out of a Europe-wide sponsorship and advertising ban also angered EU commissioners, who said the whole exercise might be killed off by it. Padraig Flynn, the EU's commissioner in charge of health policy, telephoned Mrs Jowell on Tuesday night to protest. "Why not snooker, why not basketball? This is nonsensical" said Barbara Nolan, commission health policy spokeswoman.

But a Downing Street spokesman last night said Mr Blair had met Mr Mosley and Mr Eccleston on 16 October. Motor racing provided 50,000 high-skilled and 150,000 part-time jobs and had an export value of £900m, he added.

"If we didn't table amendments to the directive we would be in a position where Formula One, being a global sport, would clearly go to Eastern Europe or the Far East and would be beamed back into Britain with more advertising," he said.

Other sports call for exemption too

There was little attempt by other sporting bodies to disguise their contempt for what they saw as the preferential treatment given to Formula One racing by Tony Blair and his ministers. The general reaction was: If they can have exemption from a sponsor-ship ban, why can't we?

Sporting organisations dependent on tobacco sponsorship said they have for years offered successful voluntary agreements on the promotion of smoking, and will now be pressing ministers to retain the status quo.

Robert Holmes, spokesman for the British Darts Organisation, whose sport depends on a £1.5m deal over four years for the Embassy World Professional Darts Championship and the Embassy Gold Cup, accused Downing Street of "snobbery" in giving concessions to the Formula One racing lobby. "It's particularly disappointing that a Labour government of all governments should strangle the life out of working-class sports," he said.

Mr Holmes denied suggestions from Downing Street that other sports – including darts – had indicated they could find alternative sponsorship.

— Michael Streeter, Legal Affairs Editor

Health lobby more sorry than angry

The anti-smoking lobby greeted news of the change in government policy more with sorrow than outright anger yesterday.

They recognised that ministers had faced a difficult choice, and concentrated much of their fire on the tactics of the motor racing industry. Their comments were also clearly intended to shore up ministers against demands from other lobby groups from within sport and the tobacco industry.

Dr Sandy Macara, chairman of the British Medical Association, said there had been "blackmail" from the Formula One lobby. "Clearly an unholy alliance of the tobacco manufacturers and the Formula One organisers has put the Government in an impossible position."

The director of the anti-smoking campaign group Ash, Clive Bates, said he believed the tobacco industry and F1 had "heavied the Government by threatening to take events away from Europe".

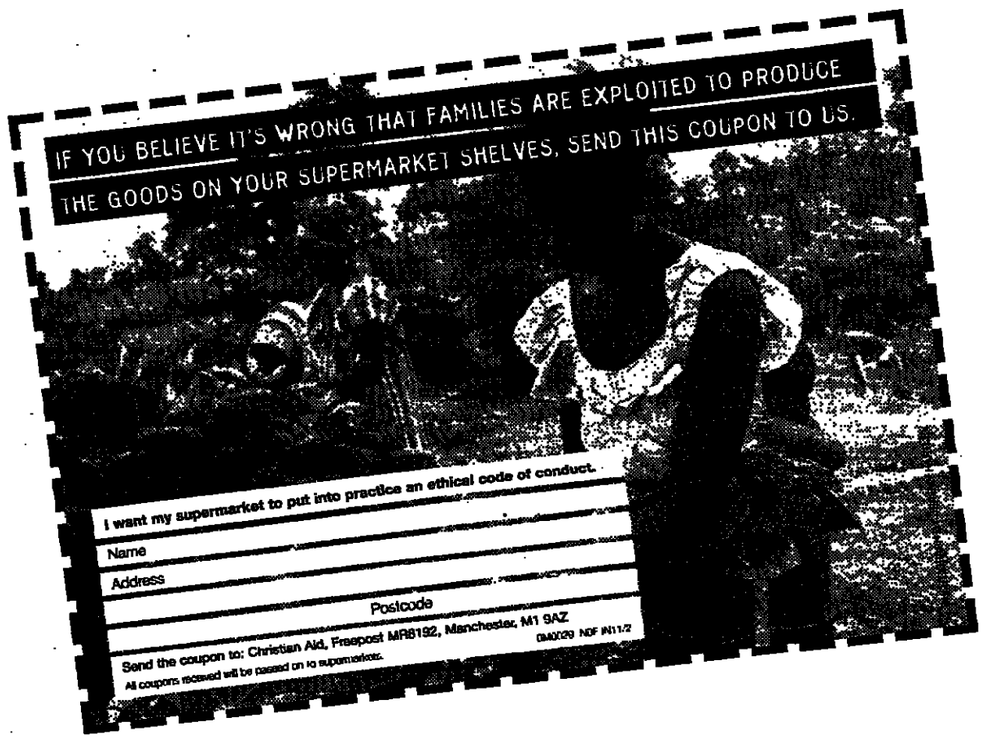
The disappointment was echoed by Stephen Thornton, chief executive designate of the NHS Confederation. Health authorities, he said, were looking for a lead from the Government to help reduce smoking-related diseases.

— Michael Streeter

Beware.
Pirate videos
for sale.

A VIDEO EXCLUSIVE. NOW AVAILABLE TO BUY.

What can you do about the exploitation of Third World families?



Cut it out.

We believe that most British people would be horrified at the hardship behind many of the goods they buy. Wages of less than £3 a day are common.

So we welcome the steps that supermarkets have taken to sign up to ethical codes of conduct.

But now it's time for supermarkets to turn principles agreed on paper into practice, with tangible benefits for Third World families.

Shoppers need to know that the products they buy meet basic minimum standards for all workers, wherever they are.

We're collecting coupons to let supermarket directors know how strongly their customers feel.

So make your mark. Send the coupon. Or call us on **0345 000 300.**

Christian Aid
We believe in life before death

Registered charity no 258003

www.oneworld.org/christian_aid

Currys

BEST EVER CHRISTMAS GIFTS

NEW RANGES FROM ONLY £9.99

FUN GIFTS

LITTLE TIKES 'Talking Clock' Radio
- Analogue clock time announces.
- Illuminated clock face. Model 1760.

NEW — CURRYS PRICE £25.99

MY FIRST SONY Walkman
- Bright and distinctive colours.
- Auto stop.
- Easy operation. Model WM3300.

NEW — CURRYS PRICE £25.99

LITTLE TIKES 'Tough Tike' Tape Recorder
- Includes singalong microphone.
- Tough, compact design. Model 1700.

CURRYS PRICE £28.99

NEW

FOOTBALL Stereo Radio Cassette
- Unique replica of 'Umbro' football.
- AM/FM/LW tuner.
- Single cassette deck.
- Integral speakers.

Model AKURA S10 FOOTBALL. Was £49.99. SAVE £2

CURRYS PRICE £47.99

NEW — CLOSED

COKE CAN Mini Portable Radio
Miniature replica Cola Can with earphones. Model AKURA.

CURRYS PRICE £9.99

COKE CAN Stereo Radio Cassette
- 3-band stereo tuner.
- 3-band graphic equaliser. Model AKURA C303.

IDEAL GIFT — CURRYS PRICE £49.99

HANDHELD TVs

CITIZEN 2.5" Handheld TV
- 5.5cm visible screen size.
- Autotune facility.
- Handy and palmsize.

Model ST555. Was £69.99.

CURRYS PRICE £64.99

£5

CASIO 2.3" Handheld TV
- 5.9cm visible screen size.
- 4 hour battery life.
- Telescopic aerial.
- Earphone socket.

Model TV770.

CURRYS PRICE £69.99

IDEAL GIFT

CASIO 2.5" Handheld TV
- 6.5cm visible screen size.
- 2.5 hours battery life.

Model TV1800.

HEAD-PHONE SOCKET — CURRYS PRICE £109.99

CITIZEN 2.2" Handheld TV
- 5.5cm visible screen size.
- Auto tuning.

Model ST055. Was £89.99. SAVE £10

FREE ADAPTOR — CURRYS PRICE £79.99

SNAP UP CHRISTMAS

POLAROID 'Spice Cam' Instant Camera
- Versatile, convenient camera, great for group shots and portraits.
- Includes Spice stickers and film.

Model SPICE CAM. In-store Price £44.99. SAVE £3

VOUCHER PRICE £41.99

NEW

CHINON Advanced Photo System Camera
- Fill in flash.
- Built-in flash with 'red-eye' reduction.

Model AP300S. Was £49.99.

£20 — CURRYS PRICE £29.99

FUJI Advanced Photo System Camera
- Drop-in film loading.
- Free film, case and batteries.

Model FOTONEX 50. Was £59.99.

£10 — CURRYS PRICE £49.99

PENTAX 35mm Compact Camera
Oversize viewfinder. Model PC50 QD. Was £99.99.

£40 — CURRYS PRICE £59.99

EASTERN COOKING

KEN HOM 5-Piece Wok Set
- 12" non-stick easy care wok.
- Includes spatula, ladle and recipe book.
- Available in Green or Blue.

CURRYS PRICE £17.99

NEW

COMPLETE BOOK OF SPICES
A comprehensive and practised guide to the world's spices plus a selection of the most popular spices.

CURRYS PRICE £16.99

NEW

COMPLETE BOOK OF HERBS
Over 100 enticing recipes featuring herbs from around the world plus a selection of the most popular herbs.

CURRYS PRICE £16.99

MADHUR JAFFREY Balti Serving Set
6 elegant stainless steel bowls and plates plus recipe booklet.

NEW — CURRYS PRICE £16.99

SEASONAL STYLERS

REMINGTON Big 'n' Bouncy Styler
- 12 Velcro rollers.
- 2 brush attachments.
- Styler vent brush.

Model BIG 'N' BOUNCY 5050.

CURRYS PRICE £24.99

IDEAL GIFT

REMINGTON Duck 'n' Dry Hairdryer
- 1200 watts hairdryer.
- 2 heat/speed settings.

Model DUCK 'N' DRY.

CURRYS PRICE £14.99

CHARLES WORTHINGTON Electric Brush
- High speed heat up.
- Ready dot.

Model B4070. Was £12.99.

£3 — CURRYS PRICE £9.99

HIT THE RIGHT NOTE THIS CHRISTMAS

SANYO Mini Headphones
Available in Red, Blue or Green. Model PH45. Was £11.99.

HALF PRICE — CURRYS PRICE £5.99

CASIO Keyboard
- 37 mini keys.
- 100 tones.

Model SA65. Was £44.99.

£10 — CURRYS PRICE £34.99

CASIO Full-Size Keyboard
- 49 full-size keys.
- 100 tones and 100 rhythms.
- Demo songs.

Model CTK401. Was £99.99.

£15 — CURRYS PRICE £84.99

PHILIPS Cordless Headphones
- Volume control.
- Clear reception.

Model 360. Was £49.99.
FREE BBC CDS90 10 PACK CHROME AUDIO TAPES
Ask for details

CURRYS PRICE £39.99

£10

YAMAHA Keyboard
- Free songbook and cassette.
- Ideal beginners keyboard.

Model PS56C. Was £29.99.

CURRYS PRICE £19.99

£10

IDEAS THAT STACK UP

WOODSTACK CD Tri-Tower
- Holds 56 CDs.
- 3 double CDs.
- Easy assembly.

Model WDK 17.

CURRYS PRICE £29.99

NEW

BRUNEL Plastic CD Tower
Simple, compact storage for CDs. Model 40.

NEW — CURRYS PRICE £12.99

USEFUL GIFT IDEAS

CROWN CLOCK
Baskerville mantle clock.

CURRYS PRICE £19.99

NEW

HERB PAINTED CLOCK
Decorative wooden kitchen wall clock with painted herb design.

CURRYS PRICE £19.99

THE HOME KITCHEN CALENDAR
Exclusively designed for Currys. With seasonal recipes, gardening tips and decorative centre pieces.

CURRYS PRICE £4.99

NEW

WELSH DRESSER TABLEMATS AND COASTERS
Dining set for six with laminated wipe clean surface.

NEW — CURRYS PRICE £16.99

COLE & MASON Salt and Pepper Cruet Set
Made from strong, durable acrylic.

NEW — CURRYS PRICE £14.99

PERSONAL PRESENTS

REVLON
Lighted Mirror
- Swivel stand.
- Normal and magnifying sides.
- 2 position adjustment.

Model 9403. Was £29.99.

CURRYS PRICE £19.99

£5

BRAUN
Mains/Rechargeable Shaver
- Unique pivoting twin foil head.
- Pop-up long hair trimmer.
- 5 minute quick charge.
- One hour full charge for up to 35 minutes cordless shaving.

Model 5314. Was £68.99.

CURRYS PRICE £63.99

£10

VIVA Manicure Set
- Cleans, shapes and polishes nails.
- 6 applicator heads.

Model 00122. LARGER STORES ONLY

IDEAL GIFT — CURRYS PRICE £9.99

CARMEN Steam Therapy Facial Sauna
- 3 heat settings.
- Digital timer/alarm.

Model 1573. Was £38.99. LARGER STORES ONLY

£10 — CURRYS PRICE £28.99

HITACHI Mains/Rechargeable Shaver
- 1 hour fast charge.
- Strong, thin cobalt coated foil.

Model RM2700. Was £49.99.

HALF PRICE — CURRYS PRICE £24.99

PHILIPS Lady Shaver
- Can be used wet or dry.
- Removable shaving head.

Model HP6326. Was £36.99.

£5 — CURRYS PRICE £31.99

PARTY FUN AND GAMES

POCKET GAME BOY Game Pack
Pocket Game Boy PLUS WAVE RACE, PLUS METROID 2 AND CASE
Total Separate Selling Price £76.96.

CURRYS PRICE £59.99

£7

THIS WEEK'S NEW RELEASES IN-STORE NOW

MATILDA

NUTTY PROFESSOR

SPICE GIRLS 'Spice World'

REMOTE CONTROL

ONE 4 ALL 'Football' Remote Control
- Ideal for the football mad TV addict.
- Operates all brands of TV, video and satellite.

Model FOOTBALL.

CURRYS PRICE £24.99

NEW

TV BUGS Remote Control Tidy
Amusing storage for remotes and TV guides. TV TAZ also available.

NEW — CURRYS PRICE £14.99

Only Currys bring you all this...

MASTERCARE always there... Coverplan

PEACE OF MIND FOR YEARS TO COME
Up to 5 years expert service support when you buy a Mastercare Coverplan Service Agreement.
◆PLUS INTEREST FREE OPTION WHEN PURCHASED WITH ANY PRODUCT OVER £300.
Ask in-store for details.

LOWEST PRICES ON THE SPOT
Many of our current prices are Currys lowest ever. Find a lower price for the same product and offer, complete, new, boxed and in stock in a local shop within 7 days of purchase and we'll match it.
WE'LL NEVER BE BEATEN

NEW — EXCLUSIVES

NEXT DAY DELIVERY 7 DAYS A WEEK
On over 800 home appliances when you purchase before 4pm. 48 hour delivery available in parts of Scotland and Northern Ireland. You can even choose morning or afternoon delivery or take it home now. Ask in-store for full details.

EXCLUSIVE MODELS & OFFERS
*For exceptional value, exclusive to DSG Retail Ltd.

INSTANT CREDIT
With Currys Premier Advantage Account you can take advantage of any credit offer in-store. Ask for details.

INDEPENDENT REVIEWS

CURRYS DIRECT
For direct, doorstep delivery, Freephone 0500 304304 or fax 01442 888145 (9am-8pm Mon-Fri, 9am-5.30 pm Sat, 10am-5pm Sun). Delivery charges from £3.25. Part of DSG Retail Ltd.

AWARD WINNING IN-STORE REPAIR SHOP
Repairs 7 days a week (same day wherever possible).

PC RAM UPGRADES
Available in-store.

PC HELPLINE 7 DAYS A WEEK
0891 516516
Calls cost 50p per minute.

SAME DAY SERVICING
For most large items if you phone before 10am Monday to Friday and live within 10 miles of a Currys store.

COMBINED DELIVERY AND INSTALLATION
On all free-standing gas and electric cookers by CORGI registered engineers (excludes Northern Ireland and selected Scottish stores).

Currys — **BRITAIN'S BIGGEST ELECTRICAL STORES**

◆ EXAMPLE OF INTEREST FREE OPTION ON SELECTED PRODUCTS

HOW IT WORKS Account is interest free if repaid in full before (or with) 6th, 9th, 10th, 12th or 18th monthly repayment according to the period stated with the product. See our 'How it Works' showcard in-store for details. Example based on Cash Price of £499.99.

EITHER 12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION — 20% deposit of £99.99. 12 monthly payments of £13.53. Balance of £237.64 before (or with) the 12th monthly repayment. Total amount payable £499.99. INTEREST 0%.

OR SPREAD THE COST WITH 48 MONTHLY REPAYMENTS — 20% deposit of £99.99. 48 monthly repayments of £13.53. Total amount payable £749.43.

APR 29.5% For loan values £1000 and over minimum deposit is 10%. Subject to status when you open a Currys Premier Advantage Account. Written credit quotations available on request from: Dept IFO/MK, Maylands Avenue, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP2 7TG. (Applicants must be 18 or over, 21 in Northern Ireland.)

WATCH OUT FOR OUR VOUCHER SPECIALS!
Look out for the special voucher savings on selected products throughout this advertisement. Simply take this advert to any Currys store to claim your discount. One voucher saving per purchase. Some voucher offers are an alternative to existing trade-in offers. Not for use with other offers. Branch use only. Discount using Code 4 (Head Office offer). HURRY! These voucher prices valid only until Wednesday 12th November 1997.

All Superstores offer easy parking, late night shopping and Sunday opening. Ring 0990-500049 for details of your nearest store. Written credit quotations from Currys, Dept MK, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP2 7TG. Currys are licensed credit brokers. Ask in-store for details

هكذا من الاصل

هكذا من الأصل

It's big, expensive and coming soon to a cinema near you

Imax, the biggest of big-screen cinema formats, is about to arrive in Britain's museums and municipalities. *Paul McCann* asks why so many are planned and whether they are simply a lottery-funded gimmick or the cutting edge of entertainment.

After years as a rather hokey novelty for parents to take their children to on wet Yorkshire afternoons, Britain has gone mad for the Imax cinema screen. Until now there has been only one of the huge-format screens in the country, but there are plans to open 10 in the next three years.

This week, builders moved on to a site in the middle of a roundabout at Waterloo, in south London, where they will construct Europe's largest cinema screen, a seven-storey Imax for the British Film Institute. And next month, the Trocadero centre, in central London, will open its new Imax – the first since the Museum of Film and Photography in Bradford opened its screen, 14 years ago.

But London's Imax mania does not stop there. The Science Museum is to build an Imax that will open in 2000 as part of its Wellcome Wing, and Warner Brothers plans an Imax as part of its multi-screen development inside the former Battersea power station.

Outside London, the trend for big screens is spreading like a rash. Bristol, Bournemouth, Birmingham, Belfast, Manchester and Dublin will all have Imax screens by the millennium.

This is a remarkable turnaround for a film format which is 25 years old and has never really taken off in Hollywood. The technology is based on a film frame that is 10 times bigger than a conventional 35mm frame. This gives images a much higher resolution and allows the film to be shown on screens so big that they spread outside the audience's field of vision.

"There has been a complete dearth of screens and now there is an explosion," says a delighted Alison Roden of Euromax, the format's trade body. "It is being driven by two things. In America there has been a surge of interest as multiplex cinema operators try to give themselves a unique selling point. They can either have better popcorn, or they can have an Imax.

"And then the National Lottery has had a huge part to play, because of the amount of money earmarked for capital projects."

But the suspicion shared by some that Imax screens are the ice-skating rinks and ten-pin bowling alleys of the Nineties: unimaginative municipal regeneration schemes that are destined to be white elephants. Ms Roden, naturally, disagrees: "The growth is not coming from institutions but from commercial companies. More films are being made every year and people are making money from Imax films."

Jon Snow: To viewers he combines 'gravitas and a whiff of the anti-establishment' Photograph: PA

Channel 4 savours the viewers' feeling for Snow

Channel 4 plans to revolutionise in its newsroom, but wants to hold on to what research identifies as its main asset – Jon Snow. *Paul McCann*, Media Correspondent, asks why Britain's most upmarket newsreader is so crucial to the channel.

Staff at ITN's *Channel 4 News* were sanguine yesterday over the impending departure of their editor, Sarah Nathan, and plans to let competing producers pitch for the programme.

The only person who is guaranteed a job with the news programme when ITN's contract ends in June 1999 is the show's anchor of the past eight years, Jon Snow.

"No one is pretending it is the happiest day in our careers," said one source at the programme yesterday. "I for one have been examining my contract. Either I'm out and we're all out, or I'll be doing something pretty different here in the future."

But other reporters maintained that Channel 4 had put them through periods of doubt before. "This time it looks more serious, that's why Sarah's gone – but really, who else can do news if not ITN?" said one reporter.

While ITN believes a new editor is needed to try to hold on to the contract, Channel 4 was at pains to emphasise that Snow, 50, will stay with the award-winning show: "We are all fans of Jon here," said a Channel 4 insider. "He is part of the future of *Channel 4 News* and anyone who comes forward with new ideas will have to include him."

Channel 4 has internal focus group research which shows that Snow, the cousin of *Tomorrow's World* presenter Peter Snow, is one of channel's best-loved names. Viewers believe Snow combines "gravitas and authority" while carrying a "whiff of the anti-establishment" about him, according to viewers.

"Viewers also believe that Snow is a reporter himself, getting his own stories, he's not just a pretty face," says the Channel 4 insider. And Snow became the story himself in September, when Buckingham Palace went out of its way to rubbish his story that The Queen had originally opposed any kind of state funeral for Diana, Princess of Wales.

Indeed, Snow's anti-establishment tendencies are not confined to his lurid ties. He was sent down from Liverpool University for his anti-apartheid activities and has set up and run a day centre for homeless people. In the Eighties he was carpeted by ITN bosses for signing a petition in support of the striking miners. But Channel 4 feels his presence can help to maintain continuity in what is likely to be a revolutionary shake-up of its news output.

Beyond concerns about the presentation of news, the channel's chief executive, Michael Jackson, is also interested in new views on the philosophy the news programme should have, and the kind of agenda it should follow.

He is asking producers to suggest a new template for the show, to dispense with the structured "package" of filmed report followed by interview and he also wants to see how far "off the beaten track" Channel 4 should go with its own stories.

However, sources at Channel 4 dismissed out of hand speculation that the planned changes are related to Channel 5 moving its news to 7pm.

Mr Jackson is being encouraged to look at more than just the form of the programme, but also its structure and organisation.

"The idea of one news provider for the channel is questionable," said Bernard Clark, head of Clark Productions, which makes *Dispatches*. "There are a thousand independent producers in the UK, many of them run by former editors of *Newsnight* or *Panorama*, and they could all feed stories to one central production crew. It's the kind of distinctive and innovative programming Michael Jackson says he wants."

The lenders don't want you

Of course you're pleased as punch to have got your mortgage organised. Now you can go ahead and buy the flat or house you want. *Your mind is full of things like removals,* getting the telephone and electricity laid on for when you arrive and remembering not to pack the kettle and tea bags at the bottom of a case.

THE SECRET MATTER OF PROTECTION

You know you have to take out life cover to pay off your mortgage should you die. Everyone does. After everything you've been through over the last few weeks sorting this out is probably not the first thing on your mind. Who would blame you for just taking out the life cover offered to you by your mortgage lender?

Stop. Halt. Whoa. Hold your horses.

If you do this, over the lifetime of your mortgage, it may cost you thousands of pounds you needn't have spent.

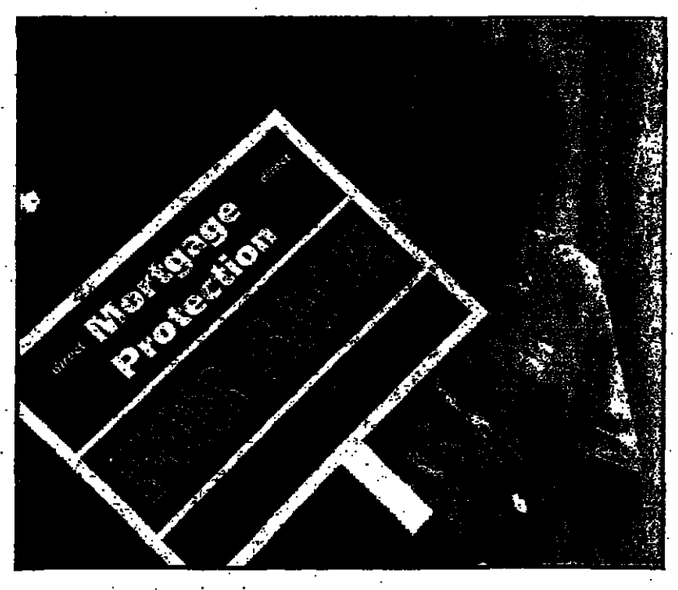
THE SECRET THAT CAN SAVE THOUSANDS

A little known fact that most mortgage lenders would rather their customers didn't know is this; you don't have to buy your life cover from the same company that provides your mortgage.

You may think you do, but you don't.

You are entitled to buy your life insurance from any company. In fact, if you shop around, you're likely to find that you can save yourself quite a lot of money!

Check the table to see how much even a small monthly saving can add up over the years.

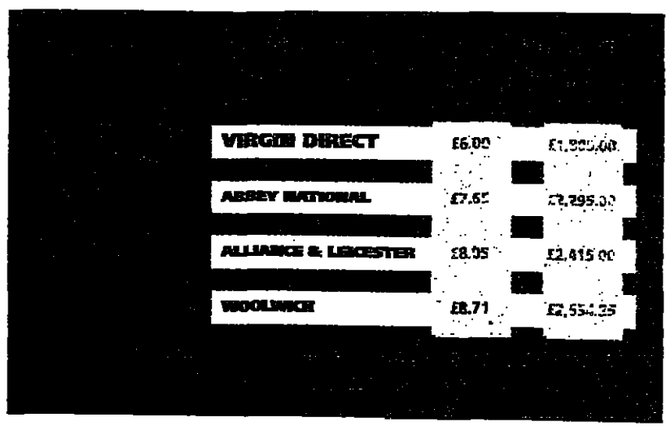


NOT SO CHEAP, 'CHEAP' MORTGAGES

Once you know this, it's easy to see what's been subsidising 'low-cost' mortgages! The Virgin Direct Repayment Mortgage Protector is among the cheapest life cover on the market. We don't employ salesmen or pay commissions.

We won't hold up your mortgage because arranging our life insurance is so easy you can probably do it in the next ten minutes by simply picking up the phone.

Call us and see how much a ten minute call could save you.



VIRGIN DIRECT	£6.00	£1,555.00
ABBEY NATIONAL	£7.65	£2,295.00
ALLIANCE & LEICESTER	£8.05	£2,415.00
WOOLWICH	£8.71	£2,554.25

Virgin direct
personal financial service

0345 900 900

Open seven days a week from 8am to 10pm

Virgin Direct Personal Financial Service Ltd is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority. For your security, all calls are recorded and randomly monitored.
*Source: Investment Intelligence September 1997

Blair says Tories will recover – eventually

Tony Blair yesterday warned Labour MPs to keep their eye on the Tories, but that they would remain unelectable for so long as they were split on Europe. *Anthony Bevins*, Political Editor, reports on the continuing Euro-wars.

The Prime Minister and William Hague clashed over Europe, the Social Chapter and the Amsterdam Treaty during Commons questions yesterday, after Mr Blair had told the Parliamentary Labour Party that in time the Tories would get their act together – "But we must make it very difficult for them to recover."

He said that for so long as Michael Howard and Lord Parkinson and others remained in such senior positions, it would be very hard for Mr Hague to portray the Tories as a party offering a fresh start. "And they will continue to be divided, which in itself can make them unelectable," Mr Blair said.

With those divisions remaining on open display over the new leader's line against the single currency, the Shadow Cabinet last night agreed to oppose next Tuesday's Commons second reading of the Amsterdam Treaty legislation - which could also incite pro-European Tories to defy their party whip.

In an evident attempt to unite his party yesterday, Mr Hague used Commons questions to round on the Government for signing up to the Social Chapter at Amsterdam.

The Conservative leader repeatedly attacked Mr Blair for signing away British rights to block extensions of the Social Chapter to small firms. He told Mr Blair: "The assurances you offered businesses about European regulation before the election are like the assurances you gave students and people with pension funds – absolutely worthless."

After the issue had been repeatedly raised by a series of Tory backbenchers, the Prime Minister told Nicholas Winterton MP: "There are no measures in the Social Chapter that are going to cause problems for British business. It's just absolute nonsense.

"We were told before the election that, if Britain signed the Social Chapter, 500,000 jobs were going to flood out of the country. It's all been nonsense.

"What is important is that we are part of the debate in Europe and that this country – because this is in the interests of business – stands up for British interests best when it represents a positive, constructive, forward-looking government."

He then added, to Labour cheers: "If the Conservative Party don't learn that soon, they will spend a long time in opposition learning it."

But there was one good piece of news for the Tories yesterday. Following the resignations of two pro-Europeans from his frontbench team last week, another pro-European member of the shadow cabinet, Sir Alastair Goodlad, the spokesman for international development, said he was fully behind Mr Hague's policy on the single currency.

Polly Toynbee, page 23

Labour MP Brian Iddon, dressed as Guy Fawkes, carries out an experiment at the Commons yesterday to promote National Chemistry Week Photograph: PA

Short outlines ethical aid policy

Clare Short yesterday launched the first White Paper on overseas aid for 20 years, pledging no more "aid for trade", and a commitment to work towards halving world poverty by 2015. *Steve Crawshaw* looks at the rhetoric and reality.

"We can succeed." Perhaps that may prove to be one of the most significant phrases in yesterday's White Paper – a remarkably upbeat statement, in place of the downbeat realism that we have become accustomed to.

One obvious change is that aid and trade are no longer inextricably linked, as they once were. The £73m Aid and Trade Provision programme, which helped to fund the controversial Pergau dam project in Malaysia, has been axed.

The ATP supported British businesses seeking contracts in the developing world, where trade was sometimes perceived as more important than aid. Sir Alastair Goodlad, shadow spokesman on international development, criticised its abolition, saying it "provided important projects". But Ms Short, the Secretary of State, retorted that he should be "ashamed to bring this up", arguing that the ATP had "brought the aid programme into disrepute".

Ms Short praised Baroness Chalker, her predecessor at the Overseas Development Administration (as it then was), but noted that the previous government had "cut her aid programme, and restricted her in what she wanted to do".

The White Paper emphasises that "trade and investment policies form a key part of the Government's approach to development". Trade and investment are described as "crucial to poverty elimination" – including an emphasis on "promoting ethical business".

The White Paper pledges to "start to reverse" the decline in UK spending on aid, and "reaffirms" a commitment to the United Nations declared target of 0.7 per cent of GNP.

The response from aid agencies was divided. The World Development Movement complained that the Government was "kidding itself" if it thought that poverty could be halved by 2015. But Dianna Melrose, policy director of Oxfam, said the targets were "good news for the millions of people living in poverty around the world". She talked of a "forward-looking strategy" which "represents a major step forward".

Simon Maxwell of the Overseas Development Institute, a think-tank on international development, argued that the White Paper "gets us to the starting gate – the challenge now is to run the race".

Paisley voters set to test Labour's mettle

Voters in Paisley South go to the polls today in the first real test for the Government since its general election victory. *Stephen Goodwin* watched the final day of campaigning.

The "wee boy", as Paisley women of maturer years call Labour's Douglas Alexander, looked in confident mood yesterday as he glad-handed shoppers in the centre of Scotland's largest town.

And well he might. Voters seem to have separated the pristine young candidate from the grubby machinations of Old Labour in Paisley and surrounding Renfrewshire and it is too early to blame the Government for the town's high unemployment.

The Scottish National Party needs a swing from Labour of 17 per cent to take the seat left vacant by the suicide of Gordon McMaster in July. The figure is not unprecedented, but the SNP has struggled to create any of the buzz which presages a by-election upset. A very low turnout offers the SNP its best chance. Damp weather, voter fatigue at a third visit to the polls in seven months, and disillusion with Renfrewshire council, could bring the turnout to as low as 50 per cent, according to one campaigner.

Most of the stay-at-homes will be Labour voters. SNP supporters are generally more committed and the same must be true of most Tory and Liberal Democrat voters in Paisley. The under 7,000 "Buddies" who shared their votes between the two parties last May surely did so out of belief rather than any expectation of winning.

Alex Salmond, the SNP leader, is understood to have begun asking searching questions of his team as to why the campaign did not ignite. Unless the voters deliver a surprise SNP victory today, the inquest could be bitter.

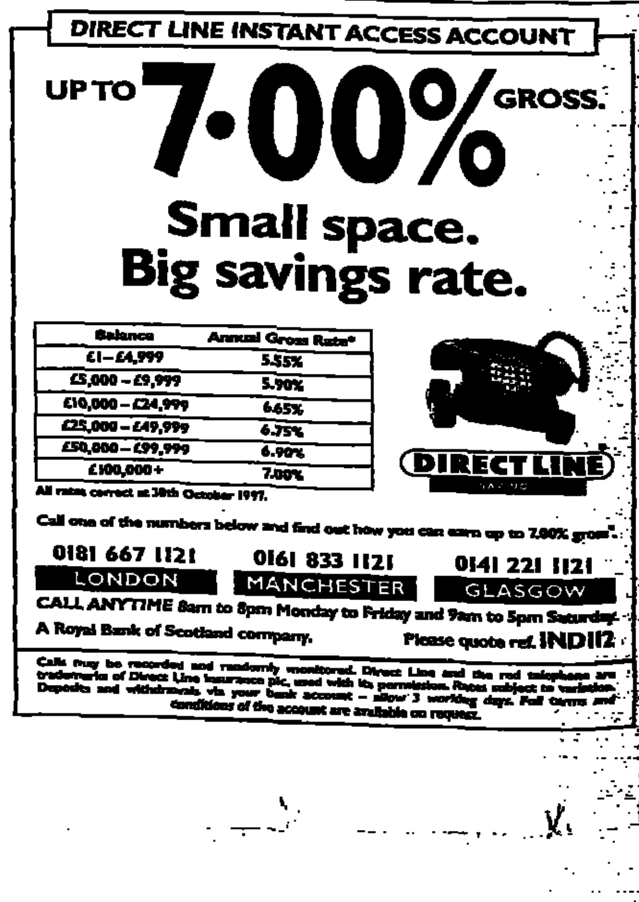
All the main parties had big hitters out for the final day – Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, Mr Salmond, Jim Wallace, president of the Scottish Liberal Democrats, and Peter Lilley, the shadow Chancellor.

Ban on witness payments

Payments such as those made by newspapers to some witnesses in the Fred West trial will be outlawed under a draft Bill to be published in this session of Parliament, it was confirmed yesterday by the Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine.

In a report to the Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee, which had called for the action, Lord Irvine said the Government would follow the draft Bill with legislation "as soon as we conveniently can".

Five witnesses received money to reveal details of the notorious killings by West at his house in Cromwell Street, Gloucester.



هكذا من الاصل

هكذا من الاصل

A NEW CAPITAL FOR THE MILLENNIUM

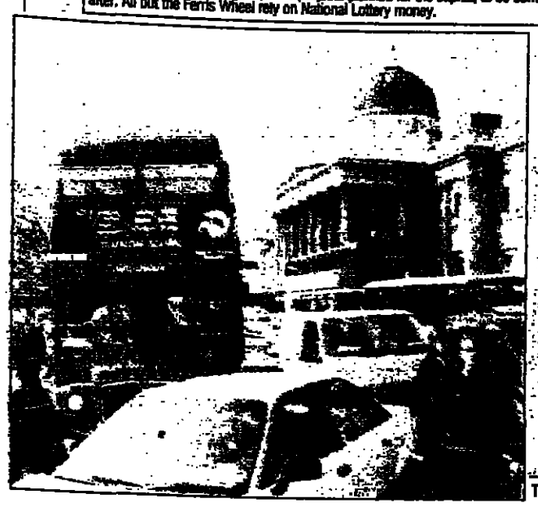
Certain

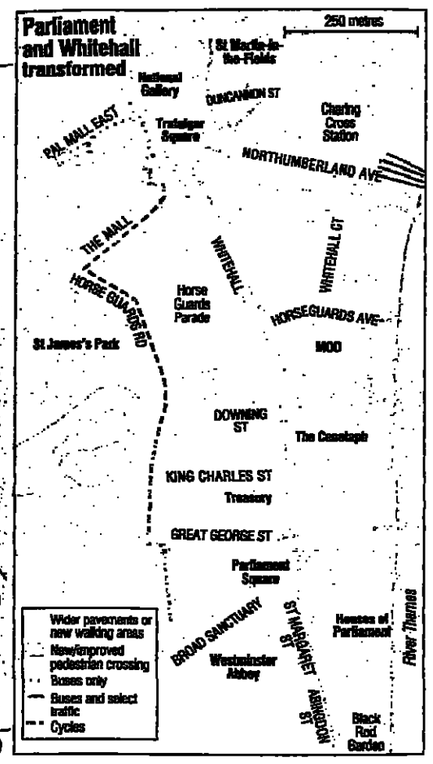
1. Tate Gallery at Bankside Power Station
2. Great Court of British Museum–glass roof
3. New Millennium Experience dome
4. New Hungerford pedestrian bridge
5. Wembley Stadium redevelopment
6. Rebuilding Covent Garden Opera House

Yet to be decided

7. Ferris Wheel on Southbank
8. Pedestrian crossing of Thames at Bankside/St Pauls
9. Giant glass roof over South Bank centre
10. Pedestrianisation of parts of Trafalgar and Parliament Squares
11. Victoria and Albert Museum extension

These are among the biggest public projects planned for the capital, to be completed by 2000 or soon after. All but the Ferris Wheel rely on National Lottery money.





Trafalgar Square's north side as it is now (left) and how it will become (above right)

The more radical of the two options for curbing traffic and boosting walking in Westminster (right)

A vision of the heart of London without traffic

Traffic is to be restricted in London's two greatest squares, transforming them for the benefit of pedestrians.

It is one of the least expensive of the capital's millennium projects. It could also be the most lasting, says *Nicholas Schoon*, Environment Correspondent.

The Government yesterday gave backing to plans to curb traffic and boost walking in the most visited and most famous part of London – Trafalgar and Parliament Squares and Whitehall.

Members of the public are being asked to give their views by the end of January, then a final plan will be drawn up and an application for National Lottery funding made.

Yesterday, Lord Rothschild, chairman of the Heritage Lottery Fund, said he would be delighted to help fund the project which will cost between £20m and £40m. Work could begin before 2000.

With the scheme having won such enthusiastic support from its inception under the previous government, it seems certain to go ahead in some form. But there are two versions or strategies, one more radical, awkward and expensive than the other, and there are strong pressures to take the easier option.

"It's the most exciting project I've seen for a while," said John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, yesterday. It would "turn our squares back to the people and away from being roundabouts".

Under both strategies, the busy road dividing Trafalgar Square from the National Gallery would be closed to all traffic and turned into part of the square. So would the road on the southern side of Parliament Square, which cuts it off from Westminster Abbey.

Under the more radical Strategy 2, two more sides of Trafalgar Square would be closed to traffic, apart from buses and cycles. Furthermore, the busy road running past the Houses of Parliament, which carries all the traffic running alongside the Thames' north bank, would also be shut to traffic, apart from buses, taxis, cycles and vehicles driving to Parliament itself.

A team of planners, commissioned by the Government and Westminster City Council and headed by the architect Sir Norman Foster, made a detailed study of the area which covers about half a square mile. They questioned thousands of drivers and pedestrians, and even discreetly trailed tourists struggling to walk through the area and cross busy roads. The current arrangements "treat pedestrians like cattle", said Sir Norman.

The planners have come up with a mass of further changes for the area, including new or improved pedestrian crossings, extra bus lanes, widened pavements, and a new cycle route along St James's Park. They want many car parking spaces, mostly used by civil servants, to be removed, with their place taken by open terraces and pavement cafés. And they call for the public to be allowed to walk through some of the impressive open spaces surrounded by government buildings and currently closed off, including a great circle hidden within the Treasury.

The aims are to make walking safer and easier, and to stop the view and atmosphere of famous buildings being destroyed by heavy traffic. Parliament Square is a Unesco World Heritage Site, along with such monuments as the Taj Mahal, the Great Pyramids and Stonehenge.

The less radical Strategy 1 would increase congestion in central London slightly. Bus journey times across central London should be unaffected however because, while buses will be slowed down by the heavier traffic away from the squares, they will speed up near to and between them.

Strategy 2 would cause more congestion, spreading into surrounding London boroughs. Both Westminster City Council and London Transport told a press conference yesterday that they had major reservations about the second option. But they pointed out that if the Government took wider measures to reduce traffic in central London, then it could work.

Sir Norman Foster said his team had found that one in five of the cars passing through the two squares and Whitehall had no need to be there. "They could be using the ring roads round London, but they're taking a short cut," he said.

Michael Gwilliam, director of the Civic Trust, the urban regeneration pressure group, said: "The Government must back Strategy 2, and not shilly shally ... If we can't curb traffic in the heart of London, with all of its public transport, then where can we?"

The project, entitled World Squares for All, will take its place among several other public projects for London funded largely by National Lottery money, from the Millennium Experience Dome in the east to the complete rebuilding of Wembley Stadium in the west. Along with major new public transport systems, such as the Jubilee Line Tube extension, these structures will transform the capital.

People can see the plans and submit their views at an exhibition in the Royal United Services Institute, next to the Banqueting House in Whitehall, today, tomorrow and on Saturday.

CUSHIONING.

It's never been so easy
to sink into our luxury car.

Killers hack their way out of prison

About 150 police wearing flak-jackets hunted late yesterday for five escaped prisoners, including three murderers serving life sentences and described as the most dangerous people in Australia.

"We consider these five escapees to be the most dangerous and desperate people on the streets of Australia at the moment and police are absolutely petrified and terrified as to what they may do to remain at large," a police media spokesman, Brian Swift, told a news conference.

The prisoners, said by police to be armed, used diamond-encrusted wire to break out of Brisbane's maximum-security Sir David Longland jail in the early hours of yesterday.

Police used helicopters after possible sightings in Brisbane's central business district and had earlier warned people in the city's outer suburbs to lock their houses and cars.

Using diamond-encrusted "angel wire" smuggled into the jail, the prisoners cut through the bars of their cells, then used their bed sheets to winch open the bars, said prison officials.

The prisoners then used cell chairs to scale a fence crowned with two rolls of razor wire.

After cutting through three more security fences, the prisoners reached the jail's perimeter fence and were thrown bolt-cutters by two people outside the jail.

The accomplices, armed with a high-powered rifle, began shooting at a guard who was chasing the prisoners as the jail's alarm began to sound.

A volley of 10 to 12 shots was fired, several piercing an armour-plated prison van which was patrolling the jail.

"When the patrol vehicle got to within 70 metres [230 feet] of the perimeter it was fired upon and both of its batteries were destroyed," said the Corrective Services Commission spokesman, Stan Macionis.

One bullet pierced the unarmoured roof of the van but the two officers inside were not hit.

The prisoners and two accomplices then ran down a road to a waiting car and sped off. A police car gave chase, but pulled back when fired on.

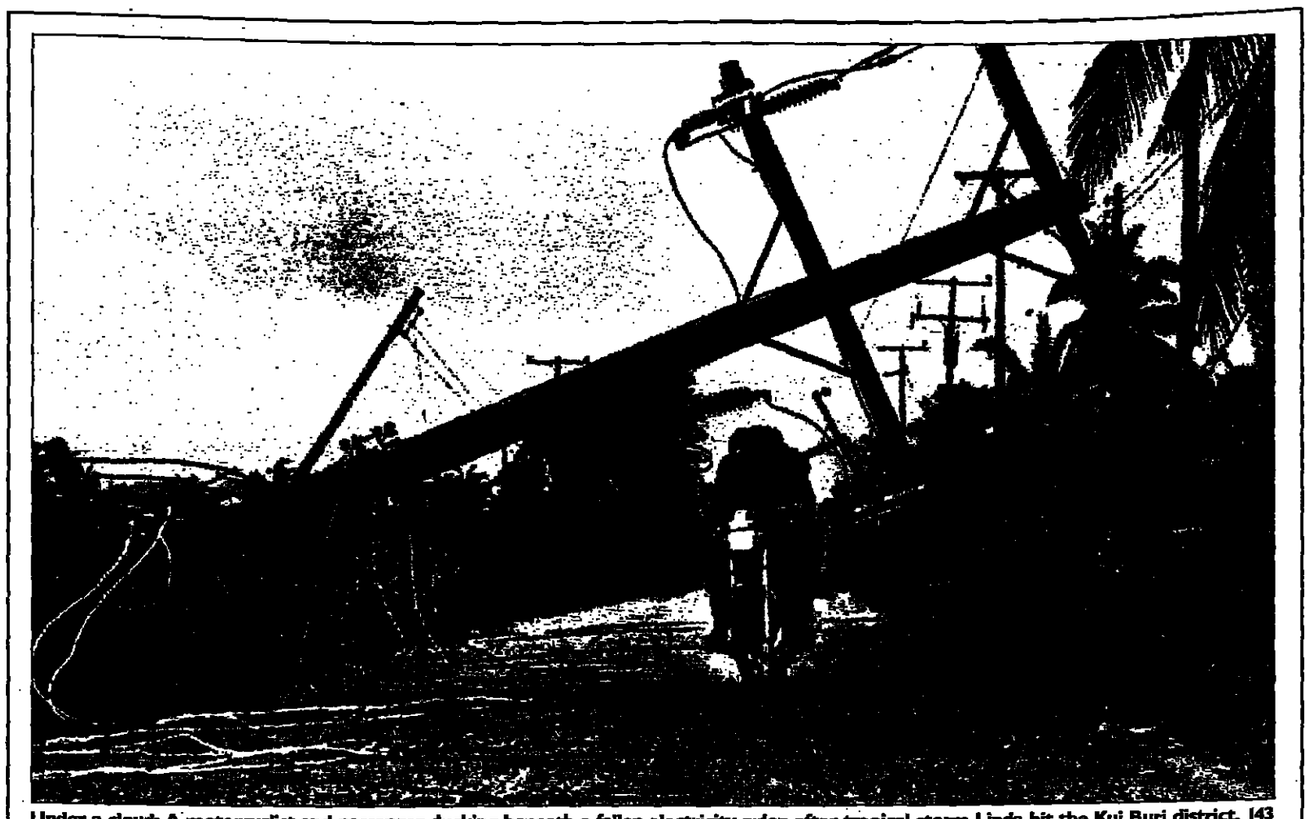
The Queensland Police Minister, Russell Cooper, has ordered all prisoners to be locked in their cells pending a report on the massive security breach.

"This is the first time we have had a concerted external assault on a perimeter in such a ruthless and cold, calculated way," said Mr Macionis.

One of the prisoners, Brendan Abbott, is nicknamed the "Post Card Bandit" for sending police taunting holiday picture postcards of himself holding bags of money while on the run.

Abbott, 35, was serving a 12-year term for bank robberies. The other prisoners are Jason Nixon, 27, serving life for murder, Oliver Alincic, 32, serving life for murder, Andrew Jeffrey, 20, serving life for murder and Peter Sterling, 31, serving 13 years and seven months for deprivation of liberty.

Reuters – Brisbane



Under a cloud: A motorcyclist and passenger ducking beneath a fallen electricity pylon after tropical storm Linda hit the Kui Buri district, 143 miles south-west of Bangkok, in Thailand this week Photograph: AP

Deadline for volcano isle

The new British governor of Montserrat gave islanders in four threatened towns until this evening to evacuate their homes, warning of the biggest eruption yet. Anthony Abbott said he was determined it "should not be allowed to claim another life". Nineteen died in an eruption earlier this year.

The government has said it will fine anybody left in the danger zone after the deadline but some of the 100 residents say they are determined to stay, whatever happens. Barely a third of the 11,000 inhabitants of Montserrat remain on the island, following the first eruption in 1995. *Steve Crawshaw*

UN, Iraq talk on arms team

Iraq and the UN held talks on the dispute over Baghdad's order barring Americans from arms inspection teams in Iraq, and a UN envoy described the atmosphere as "very nice".

The official Iraqi news agency INA said a second round of discussions had begun but gave no further details.

Reuters, Baghdad

Albright sees deal on keeping US troops Bosnia

Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, said yesterday that "a consensus is developing" between the administration and Congress that there should be some form of United States military presence in Bosnia once the mandate of the Nato-led commitment expires next June.

Ms Albright said that her conclusion was based on a meeting on Tuesday involving President Bill Clinton and a large group of law-makers.

Speaking to reporters during a photo session with Klaus Kinkel, the German Foreign Minister, Ms Albright said Mr Clinton had not made a decision on the issue. But she said there is a "clear consensus" for carrying out the terms of the Dayton peace accord.

She added that there was agreement also that the Europeans maintain some kind of military or police functions once the Nato mandate expires on 30 June.

The law-makers said, after a two-hour meeting at the White House, that Mr Clinton appeared inclined to extend the US commitment in Bosnia in a yet-to-be defined fashion.

Meeting with about 40 members of the House and Senate late on Tuesday, the President and the Defense Secretary, William Cohen, heard differing views about approaches toward Bosnia. "But with respect to the importance of the US stakes and the stability in the region, there was a general consensus," Ann Luzatto, a White House spokeswoman, said.

While the Republican-led Congress has taken a sceptical view of keeping US troops in Bosnia, a senior Republican senator, John Warner of Virginia, offered strong support for the President.

"It's very clear if the United States pulls out, these unfortunate people will be back at each others' throats again, and we will have lost close to $8bn [£5bn] of US taxpayers' money," Mr Warner said as he left the White House. "I've been coming here 19 years to these meetings and there was not really one voice of any dissent," he said. "It was constructive: 'You are the commander in chief, we're going to back you, but here are our ideas'."

Tom Daschle, Senate minority leader, immediately seconded Mr Warner's remarks. "Republicans and Democrats alike have indicated they want to work with the President to construct a strategy that will take us beyond June," he said.

"...I think we all recognise the importance of international involvement."

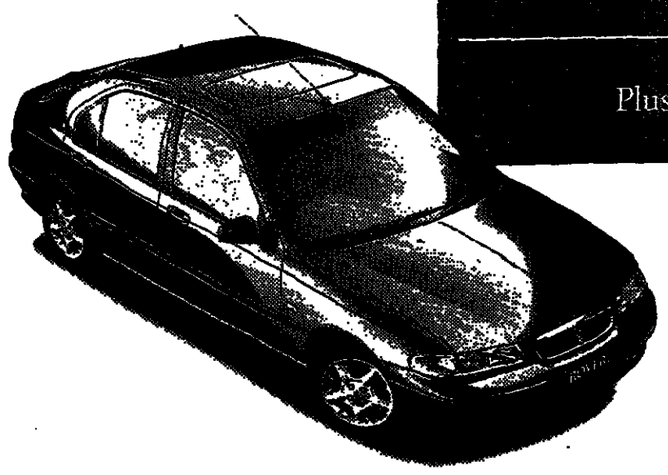
Watch that space

A report of a previously unknown gamma-ray halo around the Milky Way has puzzled and excited scientists. The finding by Nasa's Compton observatory, a satellite that carries a gamma-ray telescope, was presented at a meeting of the American Astronomical Society. "There is nothing out there that should obviously be making gamma rays," said Dave Dixon, a researcher. "Some high-energy process is occurring out there."

AP, Estes Park, Colorado

£99 A MONTH
AT 9.8% APR

Plus deposit and final payment.



ROVER 414S CASH PRICE £11,995.00.* DEPOSIT £4,584.50. AMOUNT OF CREDIT £7,410.50. 24 MONTHLY PAYMENTS £99.**
GUARANTEED MINIMUM FUTURE VALUE†/FINAL PAYMENT £6,300. CHARGE FOR CREDIT £1,325.50. TOTAL PAYABLE £13,320.50.

*PRICE CORRECT AT TIME OF PRINTING. INCLUDES DELIVERY TO DEALER, NUMBER PLATES AND 12 MONTHS ROAD TAX. CREDIT AVAILABLE TO ANYONE AGED 18 OR OVER, SUBJECT TO STATUS (A GUARANTEE MAY BE REQUIRED) THROUGH ROVER FINANCE LTD. AVON HOUSE, 435 STRATFORD ROAD, SHIRLEY, SOLIHULL B90 4BL. A MEMBER OF NATWEST GROUP. WRITTEN QUOTATIONS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST. AT PARTICIPATING DEALERS ONLY. SEE YOUR LOCAL DEALER FOR DETAILS.
**A CREDIT FACILITY FEE OF £59 AND A SALES AGENCY FEE OF £1 ARE ADDED TO THE FIRST PAYMENT. †PROVIDED THAT THE VEHICLE HAS NOT EXCEEDED THE AGREED MILEAGE AND IS IN GOOD CONDITION. EXAMPLE ASSUMES ANNUAL MILEAGE UP TO 12,000 MILES.

ROVER
RELAX.

هكذا من الاصل

هكذا من الاصل

Deadline for volcano isle

UN, Iraq talk on arms team

Watch that space

An underground leak will soon get caught in our radar trap.

Stopping leakage is the top priority for us at Thames Water. But finding leaks in an area like ours presents enormous difficulties.

Many of the most serious escapes of water are deep underground where nobody can see them, amongst a forest of pipes up to 30 feet below tall buildings and busy streets.

Much of our 20,000 miles of pipe is buried in clay, too, which expands and contracts according to the changes in temperature.

In our £200 million programme to halve leakage within the next three years, we're increasingly using state-of-the-art radar technology.

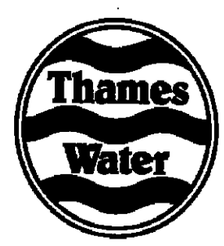
Our radar scanning equipment can send a stream of electronic pulses through the ground which will not only locate where the pipe is buried but the existence of any unusually wet area of soil.

If a leak is suspected we can use flow meters (which can pick up any unusual change in water flow), and correlators (which use electronic signals and sound) to further pinpoint the exact position. Repair teams can then go in and fix the leak.

Finding leaks more quickly through advanced technology means we can save more water and reduce disruption both to our customers and traffic.

If you'd like to help us by reporting a leak, please telephone Thames Water on our free 24-hour Leakline.

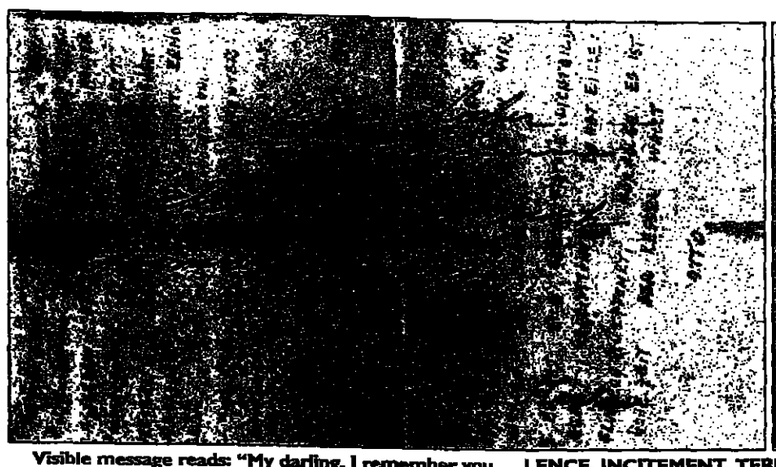
Just call us on 0800 714614.

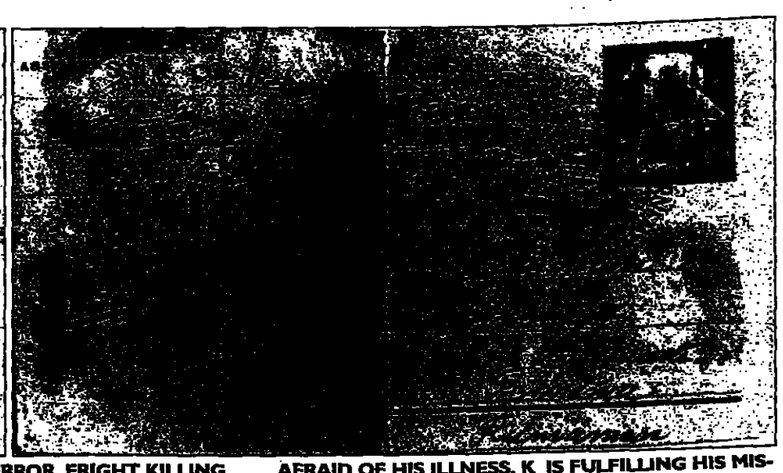


A flow of good ideas.

How a love letter told story of the murder of a nation

A seemingly innocuous postcard sent by a woman in Cracow to Romania in 1943 contains a secret message written in invisible ink describing terrible conditions in a concentration camp. *Patrick Cockburn* in Jerusalem writes about who might have sent the message and why.





Visible message reads: "My darling, I remember you with love. Lola. 20 August 1943. Krakow."

The message written in invisible ink:

"DEATH CAMP, THE REST DECEIT. FROM THE NIGHT OF THE WITCH-HUNT: HUNGER, STARVATION, DOG FOOD OAT PORRIDGE, A DOG'S LIFE, AN EPIDEMIC, TORTURE TORTURE CHAMBER, DEGRADATION, DISRESPECT VIOLENCE, INCITEMENT, TERROR, FRIGHT KILLING BY GAS, UPPER COURT (or) GALLOWS, MURDER, INCINERATOR, AGONISING HELL. CHILDREN OF FOUR AND UNDER. A BAND OF THIEVES COLD A DECLARATION CRYING TO THE HEAVENS THE NEWSPAPER ARRIVED *I HEARD IT FROM HIM* THE HEAT AFFECTED HIM A LOT THE WOUND HAS HEALED. I WAS VERY AFRAID OF HIS ILLNESS. K IS FULFILLING HIS MISSION WE WILL DO WHAT WE HAVE TO. URGENT: SIGNAL PISTOLS, CAMERA, INVISIBLE INK. URGENT: AIRBASE, CONTINUOUS LISTENING, THE TIME HAS COME THE KETTLE HAS BOILED

OTTO

Even at first glance the postcard carries with it a sense of menace. There is the postage stamp of the German administration in Poland with the eagle and swastika. It, in turn, bears a stamp commemorating Nazi party day in August 1943. It is addressed to a Jew in Bucharest and there, on the left hand side of the card, is the heavy black stamp of the Romanian censor.

The visible message is innocuous enough. It is from Lola Bergman in Krakow, dated 20 August 1943, who writes in black ink in German: "My darling, I remember you with love. Lola." It is sent to Jacob Rosenblum in the Romanian capital. The only slight surprise is that at the height of the Second World War, when the slaughter of European Jews by the Nazis was under way, that the message should be so brief. But when the card is rubbed with a hot iron the faint brown lines of a second and much longer message, disjointed but frantic, become visible. It describes a concentration camp. "Death camp, the rest deceit" are the opening words. He or she speaks of the "incinerator, agonising hell, children of four and under." After the first line-and-a-half the message switches from cursive to block capitals, as if the writer feared the words would not be understood. Some, such as "Walpurgisnacht - the night of the witch-hunt", are cryptic. Others are graphic, mentioning starvation and "oat porridge" and referring to an epidemic. The writer speaks of torture, terror and "killing by gas." In a switch of topic, and speaking as if the intended reader would know those involved, the writer says somebody's "wound has healed. I was very afraid of his illness." The rest of the message gives the impression of resistance activity. The letter is signed "Otto".

It is a unique document, given to the International Centre of Holocaust Studies at Yad Vashem, the Holocaust memorial in Jerusalem, by the daughter of Theodore Feldman, who obtained it 20 years ago in Bucharest. Mr Feldman, a Hungarian Jew who lived in Romania before emigrating to Israel, survived Theresienstadt, a forced-labour camp for Jews in Czechoslovakia which the Nazis designed as a "show concentration camp" which foreign visitors could visit, to counter atrocity stories. For two months Saul Greenstein, an archivist at Yad Vashem, has pored over the documents, trying to find evidence for the existence of Lola Bergman, Jacob Rosenblum and "Otto."

Mr Greenstein did find a Lola Bergman of Krakow, a Polish Jew, mentioned on an ageing card of the International Red Cross Tracing Service. Born in 1906 she was deported to Plaszow camp, near Krakow, in 1943, then to Auschwitz and finally to Belsen. She survived, but in the turmoil at the end of the war she disappeared. The same Red Cross card shows that somebody, a friend or a relative, looked for her in 1949, but did not find her. It is more likely that the postcard refers to Plaszow, to which most Krakow Jews had been sent in 1943, than Auschwitz.

The identity of Otto, the ostensible author of the message, is equally elusive, even supposing he used his real first name. Mr Greenstein, assisted by Vagi Zoldan, who is writing his PhD on Adolf Eichmann, believes he might be Otto Haas, an Austrian social democrat and opponent of the Nazis who belonged to a resistance organisation based in Vienna.

Haas was arrested in 1942 and executed in Berlin in 1944. He was therefore in a position to know what was happening in the camps. There are two other pieces of evidence: his handwriting, of which Mr Greenstein has several examples, is similar to that on the postcard written in invisible ink. Secondly, the Haas organisation commonly placed names and places at the end of a message - on all other cards they are at the beginning - to indicate a hidden text.

Mr Greenstein says there is one simple pointer indicating that Lola Bergman knew her letter was to carry a second, secret text. Her message is very short. All other such cards he has examined are crammed with information about the flight and survival of family and friends. Lola's prosaic love letter, however, left plenty of space for Otto to tell of terrible experiences and crimes.

The Link
KEEP IN TOUCH THIS CHRISTMAS
FREE TOP 40 CD ALBUM* WITH BT TEXT PAGERS
Link up today at 115 stores Nationwide
THE BIGGEST CHOICE
The largest range of communication products in the UK - mobile phones, faxes, pagers, telephones and palmtop computers.
EXPERT ADVICE
Our expert staff are specially trained in all communication products and will be happy to help you make the choice that's right for you.
THE LINK PRICE PROMISE
If you find exactly the same package cheaper locally within 7 days, we will refund the difference.
MASTERCARE COVERPLAN
A range of agreements available on all our products to give you complete peace of mind for up to 5 years.
TALK & DRIVE SAFELY
We have a range of 'Hands-free' options for all our mobile phones.
GIFT EXCHANGE
If you are not completely satisfied, our Gift Exchange Scheme lets you return your product, unopened (with your receipt) within 7 days, 14 days for mobile phones for an exchange or refund.
FREEPHONE 0500 222 666
For your nearest store or to order direct
BT EasyReach ALPHA TEXT PAGER
• 20 message memory
• Messages arrive with time/date stamp
Was £79.99 In-store Price £69.99
SAVE A TOTAL OF £20 WITH THIS VOUCHER
VOUCHER PRICE £59.99
One voucher per person. Cannot be used in conjunction with any other offers. Offer ends Thursday, 13th November 1997. All voucher products are highlighted accordingly. To branch manager - discount using Reason Code 04.
The Link DISCOUNT VOUCHER
BT EasyReach 103 NUMERIC PAGER
• Simple one button operation
• Choice of alerts
• Uses a single AA battery
NEW £39.99
BT EasyReach UNO NUMERIC PAGER
• Top mounted 12 digit display
• Stores up to 12 messages of 20 digits
• Bleep or silent alert
• Callers hear your personalised greeting
£49.99
BT EasyReach MEMO EXPRESS TEXT PAGER
• One line backlit display
• Stores up to 15 messages
• Time stamps messages
NEW £69.99
BT EasyReach CELLO TEXT PAGER
• One line scrolling message
• Stores up to 15 messages
• Audio or vibrating alert
£89.99
HALF PRICE MOBILE PHONE & PAGER GIFT PACK
Motorola
DIGITAL MOBILE PHONE & TEXT PAGER GIFT PACK
• Up to 300 minutes talktime/ 90 hours standby
• 90 name and number memory
• Can operate on standard AA batteries Model: D170
• Callers hear your personalised greeting
• Clock and alarm functions
• Powered by 1x AAA battery
Model: Cello
Total Separate Selling Price £99.98
UP TO £100 CHEQUEBACK*
PACKAGE PRICE £49.99*
NO LINE RENTAL UNTIL 1998*
FREE TOP 40 CD ALBUM* WITH BT TEXT PAGERS
The Link
Web site: www.the-link.co.uk
*When you connect to a Cellnet Digital Monthly Tariff. *By redemption. Ask in-store for details. *By redemption. Chequeback value dependent on tariff and value of calls made over first 6 months. See in-store leaflet for full details.
*When you connect to a Occasional Caller Plus. Connection to mobile phones is subject to status. A deposit may be required. Ask in-store for details.

Victory of a sort for woman enslaved in Auschwitz

A Jewish woman forced to work in an Auschwitz munitions factory during the war finally won partial compensation yesterday from the German government. The Bonn court's verdict could trigger an avalanche of similar claims by thousands of former Nazi slaves, reports *Imre Karacs*.

Fifty-two years after liberation from the world's most notorious death-camp, and a fleeting five years after submitting her legal claim, Rywka Merin is to receive the reward of her labours.

By the decision of a German court, Germany owes the Israeli woman DM15,000 (£5,350) plus interest for five years. It may not seem much for assembling grenades for the Wehrmacht 12 hours every day for three years, nor does it compensate for the beatings, degradation and hunger, but a principle has been established: even slaves are entitled to some pay.

Mrs Merin was one of 22 women who had been suing the German government for five years. The court ruled yesterday that the other 21, two of whom died during the hearing, were not entitled to a single pfennig. They received compensation in the past for the suffering they endured and merited no more remuneration.

The women had been "employed" by the German company Union, which went into liquidation in 1994. Union provided board and lodging - the familiar kind in Auschwitz, including one bowl of watery soup a day. One plaintiff told the court they were woken at 3am every day and marched for two hours to the factory.

The "employees" received no payment but the SS was paid a daily "hire charge". The German state had, therefore, benefited financially from this arrangement, said the defence. Establishing gain and responsibility has vexed similar claims in the past. German companies used 12 million slaves during the war, mostly Jews, concentration-camp inmates and citizens of occupied countries. Most perished in the factories, but there are a a few survivors.

Some of the companies that grew rich on their toils, such as Krupp, Siemens and Volkswagen, made voluntary payments to the victims but survivors' groups say they tended to be derisory. Until yesterday's verdict, no one had sued successfully for compensation.

The German government, on the other hand, has paid DM100bn since the war to groups representing Holocaust survivors. Jews in the US, Western Europe and Israel have collected one-off payments and pensions. East European Jews missed out, with Communists, homosexuals, Gypsies and other minorities.

Mrs Merin had not been paid because she only emigrated from Poland to Israel in 1969, by which time compensation for Israelis had been settled.

"Many people are still waiting," said judge Heinz Sonnenberger as he read out yesterday's verdict. Among these are an estimated 30,000 former Nazi slaves who have been banging on closed doors all these years. "Basically, some people will have a right to compensation now," said the women's representative, Baron Klaus von Münchhausen. "I imagine some of them would stand a good chance." But the baron, who has twice been sacked from the civil service for helping enemies of the German state, was outraged by the decision to deny the other women. "All foreign slave-labourers have a right to remuneration for wages, and we don't agree that the court can exclude these claims," he fumed, dismissing Mrs Merin's reward as a "tip".

THE INDEPENDENT
THE CROSSWORD
Only £59.95 inc p&p
Perfect for those relaxing moments, the Lexibook Crossword has millions of group combinations with 30,000 questions and more than 27,000 answers. There are 3 levels, beginner, intermediate and advanced. You can save the current game to continue later and the crossword comes with a built-in mouse for ease of operation.
Size: 11cm x 11.5cm x 2cm (4¼" x 4½" x ¾")
HOW TO ORDER
☎01753 642234
01753 648810
using your Credit Card or send completed coupon with crossed cheque or postal orders to:
THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD OFFER
PO Box 261
Slough SL2 3RU
Offer available UK mainland only. Please allow 28 days for delivery from receipt of order. You may return your order within 7 days if not completely satisfied. This does not effect your statutory rights.
Newspaper Publishing PLC Registered in England No. 1908997
Please send me ..... Crossword(s) @ £59.95
The total value being: £
I enclose a crossed cheque (with my Address on the back) made payable to: NEWSPAPER PUBLISHING IND795
Or please debit my ACCESS VISA Card account with the sum of: £
My card number is
Expiry Date
Please use block capitals
My Name is (Mr/Mrs/Ms)
Address
Postcode
Telephone:
Signature
Send To: THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD OFFER PO Box 261, Slough SL2 3RU Tel: 01753 642234 Fax: 01753 648810
Please tick this box if you do not wish to receive future mailings from NEWSPAPER PUBLISHING PLC or from companies approved by NEWSPAPER PUBLISHING PLC
IND795

هكذا من الاصل

هكذا من الاصل

Republicans win the election issues

Washington – *Results of* Tuesday's state and local elections were hailed by the Republican Party yesterday as a significant victory and a happy precursor of next year's mid-term Congressional elections. A closer look at the results suggests, however, that party political considerations were not at the forefront of voters' intentions, as *Mary Dejevsky* explains.

Headline news: Rudolph Giuliani holding a copy of the *New York Post* declaring his re-election as the city's mayor Photograph: Mike Segars/Reuters

Or the face of it, Tuesday was an excellent night for the Republican Party. They won both the state governor posts that were being contested, in Virginia and New Jersey, and in Virginia took all three top state posts for the first time: governor, lieutenant governor and attorney general.

Rudolph Giuliani was re-elected mayor of New York City, with a double-figure majority – much increased from his 29 per cent victory four years ago, and Republican mayors elsewhere retained their posts.

The Republicans also kept easily the one Congressional seat on offer – the New York seat vacated by Susan Molinari who defected from the House of Representatives to become a television talk-show host and "spend more time with her family". The chairman of the Republican National Committee, Jim Nicholson, who was in Virginia to support the victorious candidate for governor, Jim Gilmore, said that the Virginia campaign could provide a model for next year's Congressional election campaign.

The night was hardly the disaster for the Democrats that these results suggest, however. They lost in New York to an incumbant mayor who had been attracted support across the party divide for restoring safety to a city that was regarded before his election as dangerous and in irreversible decline. The extent to which Mr Giuliani was seen as first as saviour of New York and only second as a Republican was illustrated by the fact that he had a support group of "Democrats for Giuliani" and – according to exit polls – received 70 per cent of the traditionally Democrat New York Jewish vote, against his Jewish Democrat challenger. Yesterday, Mr Giuliani intimated that he would not rule out using his success as a springboard for higher office.

Both the biggest "victory" and the biggest disappointment for the Democrats was the race for governor in New Jersey, where the present governor, Christine Todd Whitman, only just fought off the challenge from Jim McGreevey, a local Democrat. Ms Whitman, a prominent Republican sometimes fancied as a presidential candidate in 2000, retained her post by only 1 per cent.

The forces at work in this election, however, were remarkably similar to those at work in Virginia. Mr McGreevey trumped Ms Whitman on the very policy, a traditionally Republican one, that had brought her a surprise victory four years before – cutting taxes. And he almost succeeded.

In New Jersey, a state – like Virginia – with large numbers of suburban commuters, Mr McGreevey attacked Ms Whitman for allowing local property taxes to be the highest in the country and for not curbing increases in car insurance rates - also the highest in the country. Even though the governor has no direct authority over either property taxes Ms Whitman was thrown on to the defensive.

In Virginia the Republicans pledged to abolish the hated state property tax on cars – and won on this one issue. A majority of traditional Democrat voters who actually voted Democrat on Tuesday, said that their top priority was education spending and standards. About one-third of Democrats, however, said that for them the car tax was the priority issue, and they had voted Republican. As one commentator said, the message from both states seemed to be: "Don't mess with our cars."

Texans back policy of affirmative action

Voters in the north-western state of Oregon decided by a large majority to retain a law permitting terminally ill patients to end their lives, reinforcing a provision approved three years ago but never implemented. In Houston in Texas, voters decided by a slightly slimmer majority not to end the 13-year-old *policy of affirmative action.*

Both these referendums – two of 43 state and local issue ballots held in different parts of the United States along with Tuesday's elections – had been closely watched because of their wider implications. At least nine other states are considering the introduction of "assisted suicide" laws, while the Houston vote on affirmative action was seen as a last opportunity for supporters of affirmative action to stall a growing backlash against the policy that favours women and ethnic minority candidates for public service jobs and grants.

Last year, Californians had voted by a large majority to end the state's affirmative action policy, and the Supreme Court this week allowed that decision to stand. At federal level the courts are expected to end affirmative action as a national policy, despite President Bill Clinton's strong support for it.

Although Houston was only the second area (after California) to vote on affirmative action, it was also seen as a last bastion of that policy. If a city with a non-white majority – approximately 36 per cent Hispanic, *22 per cent black and 6 per* cent Asian – voted to abolish racial preferences, it was argued, there was almost no chance of affirmative action surviving anywhere else in the longer term.

The outgoing mayor of Houston, Bob Lanier, who had campaigned tirelessly for its retention, said of the 54 to 46 per cent vote: "I think this is a decent city with decent instincts ... if the city perceives a position as being racist, it will lose."

The vote in Oregon, which went 60-40 per cent in favour of keeping a regulated form of euthanasia, showed a bigger majority than the 51-49 per cent result three years ago. The pro-euthanasia position won, despite a fierce opposition campaign spearheaded by the Catholic church.

— *Mary Dejevsky*

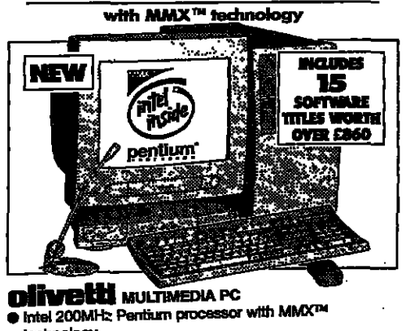
CLINTON COMES TO AID OF WORKERS

President Clinton yesterday outlined a plan to help American workers displaced by overseas competition in his bid to win congressional approval of expanded trade negotiating power.

Mr Clinton said he wanted to provide $750m in additional funding to retrain dislocated workers in answer to Democratic concerns that new trade deals could lead US companies to relocate abroad to take advantage of cheap labour. "We must greatly expand our efforts to help workers who lose their job because of technology or trade or other economic changes," Mr Clinton said. "We will not create or save jobs in the short run or the long run by refusing to open markets to our products."

Discover the Magic of Multimedia this Christmas

TOP BRAND MULTIMEDIA PC
with MMX™ technology



olivetti MULTIMEDIA PC
● Intel 200MHz Pentium processor with MMX™ technology
● 16Mb RAM ● 256Kb cache memory
● 2.1Gb hard disk drive ● 16 speed CD ROM drive
● 3D graphics accelerator with 2Mb RAM
● 33.6 fax/modem
● 15" monitor
● Includes microphone
Model XANA P200
was £1399.99
9 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION*
● £1299.99 SAVE £100

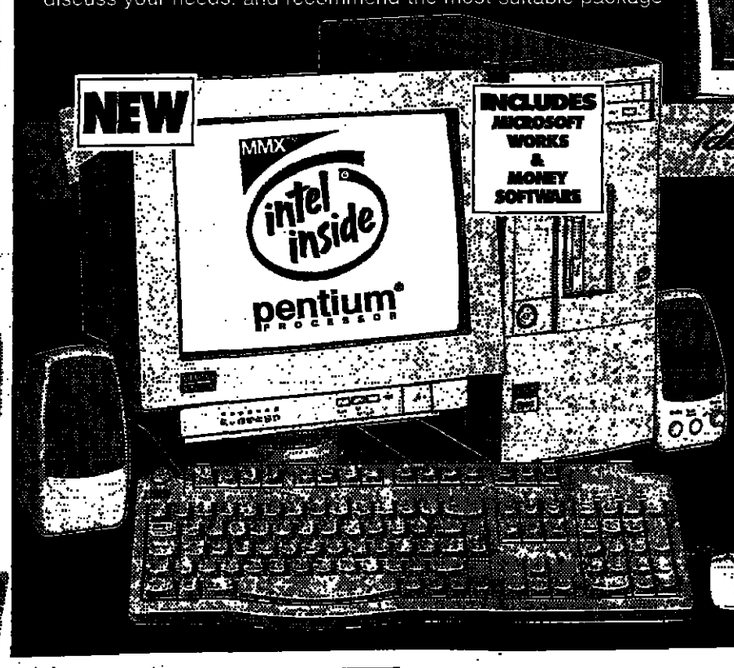
HIGH SPECIFICATION PACKAGE
233MHz processor for fast, efficient performance

SIEMENS
NIXDORF MULTIMEDIA PC
● Intel 233MHz Pentium processor with MMX™ technology
● 32Mb SD RAM ● 256Kb cache memory
● 2.1Gb hard disk drive ● 16 speed CD ROM drive
● 3D graphics accelerator with 2Mb RAM
● 16 bit 3D sound card
Model XPERT P233 MMX
was £1499.99
previously £1699.99
18 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION*
● £1349.99 SAVE £350
INCLUDES MICROSOFT WORKS & MONEY SOFTWARE

PLUS FREE SOFTWARE BUNDLE AND WHAT PC? JARGON BUSTER
Choose from one of these three free software bundles when you buy any Multimedia PC. Including an education pack, a productivity pack or a games pack.
Receive a free jargon buster produced exclusively by What PC? magazine when you buy any Multimedia PC.

A Christmas present for all the family
MULTIMEDIA MADE EASY AT COMET
FREE FULLY INSTALLED SATELLITE SYSTEM WHEN YOU SPEND OVER £199 ON ANYTHING AT COMET*
Subscribe to any Sky package for 12 months and pay a one-off connection fee of £12. Offer is not available to previous or existing subscribers and members of their households.
Our expert staff will help you get it right this Christmas

Whether you're choosing your first Multimedia PC or upgrading to a new system, you'll find all the answers in the Multimedia Computer Centre at Comet. Our expert staff have all completed an intensive training course and are dedicated specialists in Multimedia PCs. They'll sit you down, answer your questions, discuss your needs, and recommend the most suitable package



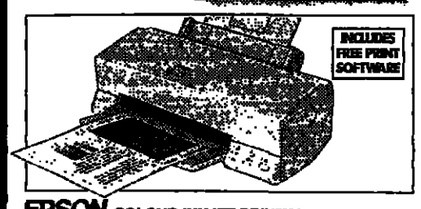
Ideal for first-time buyers

This Siemens Nixdorf Multimedia PC from Europe's largest computer manufacturer is perfect for the first time buyer. With an Intel 166MHz Pentium processor with MMX™ technology, and a selection of software titles, it's a great value starter PC

SIEMENS
NIXDORF MULTIMEDIA PC
● Intel 166MHz Pentium processor with MMX™ technology
● 32Mb SD RAM ● 256Kb cache memory ● 1.6Gb hard disk drive
● 16 speed CD ROM drive ● 16 bit 3D sound card
● 3D graphics accelerator with 2Mb RAM
Model XPERT P166 MMX was £1099.99 previously £1199.99
9 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION*
● £899.99 SAVE £300

Produce Your Own Christmas Cards

Canon COLOUR BUBBLEJET PRINTER
● Up to 4.5 pages per minute ● 720 x 360 dpi print quality
● 100 page sheet feeder ● Automatic power off function
● Includes colour cartridge
Model BJC4300
● £199.99 NEW



EPSON COLOUR INKJET PRINTER
● Prints up to 6 pages per minute ● 1440 x 720 dpi print quality ● Advanced dual ink cartridge system
● PhotoReal colour printing as standard
Model STYLUS 600
was £269.99
previously £289.99
In-store £249.99
VOUCHER ● £229.99 SAVE £60

HEWLETT PACKARD COLOUR INKJET PRINTER WITH PHOTO READER
● Up to 5 pages per minute ● 600 x 600 dpi print quality
● 100 page sheet feeder ● Includes Easy Photo Reader – scan and edit your own photos
● Includes image editing software
Model DESKJET 680C+
was £259.99
● £249.99 SAVE £10

LOWEST PRICED SCANNER
30 bit for sharper, richer images

UMAX ASTRA A4 FLATBED SCANNER
● 30 bit for sharper, richer images ● 300 x 600 dpi optical resolution
● Parallel port interface for easy connectivity
Model 600P
● £99.99 NEW

CAREFULLY SELECTED RANGE
At Comet we only stock PCs that are individually selected to offer quality performance and outstanding value to our customers.

THE COMET PRICE LOWEST PRICES GUARANTEED
If you buy any product from us, then within 14 days find the same offer on sale locally at a lower price, we'll willingly refund the difference, PLUS 10% OF THAT DIFFERENCE. Ask in store for full details.

FIVE YEAR MONEY BACK WARRANTY
Our 5-Year Warranty is really special. Besides giving you peace of mind, if after 5 years you don't make a claim you can get your warranty money back in full. Ask in store for full details.

COMET
COMET IS THE BIGGEST OUT-OF-TOWN ELECTRICAL RETAILER, SO THERE'S BOUND TO BE A STORE NEAR YOU
For local store details phone free on 0500 425 425. Visit our web site at: www.comet.co.uk

FREE MULTIMEDIA HELPLINE
Comet offer free telephone advice (in conjunction with Softbank Services) on operating your new PC or software for 30 days or the length of a warranty if purchased. Standard call charges apply.

THE COMET PRICE: The stores in South Wales do not show savings in store. All items subject to availability. ◊Interest Free Option: 10% deposit then 8 equal monthly payments. 0% APR. For example: Cash price = £1198.99. Deposit 10% = £119.99. Amount of payments = 8 months at £143.81 Pay the balance £729.52. Total payable = Cash price. 0% APR or for 36 months at £43.81 per month. Total amount payable = £1697.15. 29.9% APR Interest Free Option or Buy Now Pay Later promotions require you to produce 2 methods of identification on application. Credit is subject to status and cannot be guaranteed. Comet is a licensed credit broker for this service. Comet Group Plc, George Street, Hull. ‡Voucher offer ends close of business 12.11.97. Vouchers cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer or voucher. Note to stores: Voucher offers Process as Reason Code A9. ■Please ask in store for details. ▼Free Canon BJC250 Colour Bubblejet Printer (SKU527834). *Offer is by leaflet redemption. Simply subscribe to any Sky package for 12 months and pay a one-off connection fee of £12. Sky's channel packages currently range from £11.99 per month to £29.99 per month. Offer is not available to previous and existing Sky subscribers and members of their households. For installation, in some cases extra brackets and cabling may be required, for which an additional charge will be made. Installation cannot be guaranteed before Christmas 1997. Prices and information correct at time of going to press 06.11.97. ● Intel Inside and Pentium are registered trademarks.

Kremlin palace guards at war after Yeltsin ditches his election financier

Boris Yeltsin has fired a leading member of the small clan of immensely wealthy businessmen close to the Kremlin. As *Phil Reeves* reports, there is now a split among his most powerful supporters. So far, it only involves words – but sticks and stones could follow.

After months of rumblings, tension within the Kremlin erupted into full view yesterday when Boris Yeltsin fired one of the tycoons who helped secure his re-election. Boris Berezovsky, one of a handful of Russian financiers who joined forces to bankroll Mr Yeltsin's campaign last year, was dismissed as deputy secretary of the Security Council, producing a rift in the ruling élite surrounding the President.

His demise was a result of a conflict with Russia's two powerful deputy prime ministers, who spearheaded the troubled transition to Western-style economics, Anatoly Chubais and Boris Nemtsov. Hours after Mr Berezovsky's dismissal, flew between the opposing camps. Mr Berezovsky accused the two ministers of "constantly trying to steer" ORT, one of Russia's leading television channels which, though formally state-owned, he controls.

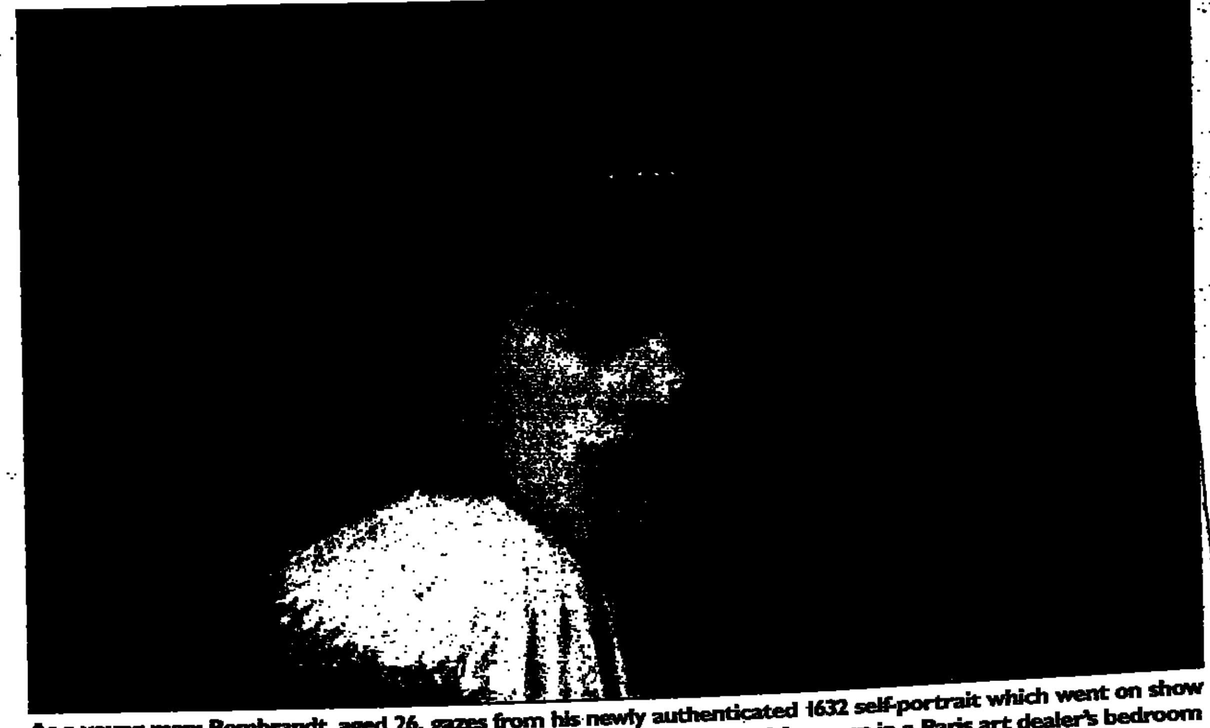
He also implied Mr Yeltsin had been bamboozled into firing him, remarks which, despite Mr Yeltsin's return to health, echo last year's allegations that he is out of touch. He told Echo Moskvi radio station that the situation is "what we have been fighting against - one in which an official may enter the President's office and have any decree signed."

Mr Berezovsky's media stable includes several other leading publications - notably, the newspaper *Nezavisimaya Gazeta* and the respected magazine *Ogonyuk* - which seem likely to form the vanguard in a damaging media war between pro-Yeltsin factions. Mr Nemtsov applauded the firing as "absolutely right", saying Mr Berezovsky had sought to combine his government work with business activities.

From the moment he entered government, Mr Berezovsky was the source of controversy. However, although his job was widely perceived as a reward from Mr Yeltsin for his support last year, he is credited with furthering the peace deal in Chechnya.

While in government, he claimed to have suspended his business activities but tensions surfaced earlier this year when he lost out in a bid for a stake in the state telecommunications monopoly Svyazinvest - which went to a consortium which included the international financier George Soros. His outrage was duly reflected in the coverage given to the issue by his media outlets.

The issue now is whether he will turn his considerable media fire-power against the President. Yesterday Mr Berezovsky indicated the opposite, saying there was no alternative to Mr Yeltsin.



As a young man: Rembrandt, aged 26, gazes from his newly authenticated 1632 self-portrait which went on show at the Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam, yesterday after hanging unrecognised for years in a Paris art dealer's bedroom

I'm worri d that
my busin ss will
b l ft b hind.
I n d to
find n w ways to
comp t .

(On November 10th, find out what you're missing.)

Blair reaches for the sky as French arrive

President Chirac and Prime Minister Lionel Jospin arrive tonight for the latest Anglo-French summit. As *Rupert Cornwell and John Lichfield* explain, the omens are set for a friendly meeting. But striking French truckers and the planned single European currency could yet spoil the show

Almost as important as the contents of the summit perhaps are its setting and trappings, picked by the Government to project a new-model Britain under new-model Labour.

Canary Wharf is an emblem of the revived Docklands district of east London. Interior décor on its hitherto unoccupied 38th floor, where tomorrow's talks will be held, comes courtesy of Terence Conran, while the wind-up lunch will be prepared by a trendy young British chef, Anton Escalera, of the Midsummer House restaurant in London.

Before comes the serious discussion, complicated by the dictates of cohabitation. Mr Blair will have 75-minute sessions with the Gaullist president and his Socialist prime minister, and a mere 15 minutes *à trois*. Truckers permitting, Europe looks set to be the main item on the diplomatic menu.

Mr Chirac arrives 24 hours after meeting Chancellor Helmut Kohl. His aim here will largely be to defuse hostility to plans, largely French-inspired, for a Euro-council of single-currency countries, which London fears would exclude non-EMU members like Britain from Europe's key economic and monetary policymaking forum.

But he and Mr Jospin will say it will be in Britain's interest if sterling is merged into the Euro in due course, as Messrs Blair and Brown seem to intend. France believes the new body will enable a measure of political and democratic management for the Euro-zone, to offset the technocratic powe of an independent, unelecte European Central Bank.

Mr Blair will be probin French intentions for the ban after Mr Chirac and Mr Jospi made their proposal this wee of a French candidate, Jea Claude Trichet, Governor of th Bank of France, as its head. throws into doubt prospects o the former Dutch central-ban governor Wim Duisenberg, an has caused consternation i Bonn, a strong supporter of M Duisenberg, and in the Hague France is also not convinced o the merits of a German sug gestion that Britain should be given a seat on the bank's sixman board, even though it is outside EMU.

The summit will come giftwrapped with bilateral agreements: an Internet link between French and British schools, Franco-British co-operation on recruitment techniques for a volunteer military to which France is converting and an announcement that a children's' garden will be laid out in Paris, named in honour of Diana, Princess of Wales.

But there are potential areas of trouble, most obviously the truckers' strike. Neither side wants it to dominate proceedings, certainly not the French Socialist government, which does do not want to venture into the citadel of New Labour half-paralysed by an Old Labour industrial dispute.

But if it is not settled by this evening, there will be no avoiding the topic. And whatever happens, British officials say Mr Blair will raise the matter of unpaid compensation for losses incurred by British hauliers from similar disruption in 1996

On Iraq, London and Paris are united on insisting United Nations arms inspectors must be allowed to work unhindered. But Britain will be watching for any hint of backsliding by the French, given the abstentions of France, Russia and China on a UN sanctions resolution last month, which gave President Saddam Hussein the opening to cause trouble now.

Bardot has the last word

A French court yesterday ordered Brigitte Bardot's former husband and his publisher to pay her 50,000 francs (£5,300) in damages for having invaded her privacy in a kiss-and-tell book. But the court threw out the actress's request to seize copies of Jacques Charrier's book *My Answer to BB*, published by Michel Lafon, which tells his side of their three-year marriage that ended in divorce in 1962. They had one child, Nicolas, who joined with Mr Charrier in successfully suing Ms Bardot, for invading the privacy in her best-selling memoirs, *Initiales BB*. — AP, Pa

For affordable private health cover, call TODAY.
You could save up to £200 on your premium.
Prime Health
A member of the Standard Life Group
0800 77 99 55
quoting reference M08732NG

هكذا من الاصل

هكذا من الاصل

Lenin's bewildered heirs contemplate a lost kingdom

The 1917 Bolshevik Revolution, 80 years old this week, produced the world's largest political machine, a sinister apparatus whose tentacles stretched into almost every crevice of the Soviet Empire and beyond. But what does it mean to belong to the Communist Party in today's Russia? *Phil Reeves* **reports from Moscow.**

The grandson of Molotov, Stalin's sidekick whose signature sent thousands to their graves, can still remember how the old man would justify his career. "He would say, 'Well, when we took over power, the country was wearing *lapki* – shoes woven from bark. And when I went out of power we had launched Sputnik and had nuclear missiles. Now that's not a bad job, is it?'"

Vyacheslav Nikonov – a 41-year-old political consultant in Moscow, who shares his grandfather's first name but not his politics, says Molotov "regretted many things" about his life. But "in general he thought he was doing the right stuff", having thrust the Soviet Union into the 20th century and saved it from the Nazis. His grandfather does not appear to have been unduly haunted by the fact that, according to one of Stalin's biographers, Robert Conquest, this included countersigning 3,167 death sentences in one day – 12 December 1937 – before going to the cinema.

"He felt that the Terror was a necessary part of the preparation for World War Two. Stalin, expecting a big war, was just preventing society from internal splits. At the same time he thought there were mistakes. Too many people suffered through false allegations." Thus were Lenin's tactics of terror administered, underpinning both Stalin's dictatorship and reinforcing the vast apparatus that supported it.

During Molotov's career – which began as a Bolshevik revolutionary under Tsar Nicholas II and ended in 1986, and included three years as Foreign Minister of the Soviet Union – the Communist Party and totalitarianism became one and the same.

Run by a privileged élite, and reinforced by a terrifying security service, it ruthlessly monopolised the Soviet Union's wealth, its political power, its speech, even its history. Then, and until Mikhail Gorbachev unwittingly brought about its collapse, party membership was an essential requirement for the ambitious, be they teachers, industrialists, policemen or bureaucrats. Now that has all changed.

This week, on Tuesday evening, in a packed hall in Moscow, 2,000 bald or greying heads gazed up at the stage, where an orchestra and choir were assembled beneath a 15ft banner of Lenin. The musicians launched into the hymn of the proletariat, "L'Internationale", the opening number in a concert to mark the 80th anniversary of the October Revolution. Soon the audience was singing along to Russian patriotic songs and ancient hits from Soviet films.

There were speeches about Soviet triumphs in space, and other glories from the past. But, above all, this was a gathering of elderly people who – bewildered by the new, dangerous and valueless Russia – wanted to scuttle dewy-eyed back to the golden era of the Second World War. Without the emblems, you could have been in the British Legion. Yet this gathering also represented the foot soldiers of contemporary Russian communism. Banned by Boris Yeltsin after the failed coup of August 1991, they returned to politics several years ago, bereft of many former leaders who deftly reinvented themselves as the new ruling élite and *nomenklatura* capitalists. But they operate in a nation with little appetite for party membership, where they seem destined to be denied real power.

1917: Conscripts for the Red Army, forged during the Bolshevik Revolution, being examined by medical staff

The statistics are deceptively flattering. There are now nine Communist organisations in Russia, embracing a spectrum of views from social democracy to Slavic nationalism, orthodox Marxism, and Stalinism. By far the largest is the 500,000-strong Communist Party of the Russian Federation, led by the uninspiring Gennady Zyuganov. Its powerbase lies in the State Duma (parliament) which, with the help of nationalist and radical left forces, it controls. But the Duma is weak, and so is Mr Zyuganov. Faced with being marginalised, he conducts an unending balancing act between the right and left – trying to retain influence on the Kremlin by quietly working with the Yeltsin administration, while keeping the left from defecting by decrying Yeltsin's rule as criminal. Part-Communist, part-Russian nationalist, he doggedly woos the Orthodox Church – sacrilege for those purists who believe in the atheist state.

The results of these politics are so unconvincing that his Central Committee has split asunder. One committee member, Tatyana Astrakhankina – infuriated by the leadership's recent decision to abandon a motion of "no confidence" in the Yeltsin government – accused them of "only pretending" to be in opposition. And yet, no obvious replacement to Mr Zyuganov is in view.

Nor does he have many options. The Communists have very little chance of taking control of the key institution in the country, the hugely powerful office of presidency.

The Communist electorate is elderly and rural, largely comprising the millions of Russians who have gained nothing from the reforms, but have lost the security of welfare and the guaranteed (if meaningless) jobs for life provided by the Soviet Union. This core electorate is showing every symptom of being frozen around or below the 30 million mark. In the second round of the presidential election last year, it hit the top of its range, with just over 40 per cent of the vote, some 13 per cent less than Boris Yeltsin. Under Russia's electoral system, the president is elected in a second round from the top two candidates from the first. As they appear incapable of ever mustering half the electorate (unless turnout collapses), the Communists stand no chance of winning.

Tomorrow, the Communists and their allies will unfurl their red flags and parade in honour of the Revolution. There will be plenty of sound and fury, plenty of wishful thinking about forcing through real political change. But it will signify, if not nothing, then very little.

1997, and one thing at least is unchanged: Recruits in the post-Soviet army at the ablutions Photograph: Obshchaya Gazeta

erm...um...err...um...erm ...hmmm...err...um...erm...hmmm
...err...um...erm ...hmmm...err...um...erm...hmmm...erm...um
...erm...mmmh...err...um...erm ...

aahhh.

Vodafone shops make choosing the right mobile phone easy.

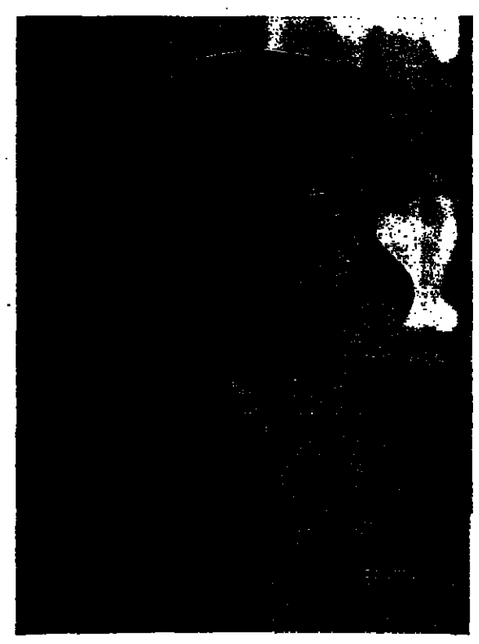
If you're umming and ahhing about mobile phones, just visit your new local Vodafone shop and see how simple choosing the right handset and tariff can be. With the backing of the UK's biggest network, our experienced staff will help you select the best package. And when you take out our Complete Freedom Guarantee, you can simply cancel your contract if you're not totally satisfied. To find out more, visit your local Vodafone shop, or call us direct on 0800 10 11 12. With over 250 shops nationwide, finding one is simplicity itself.

0800 10 11 12

the word is vodafone

At Scottish Widows we offer low start pensions. And when your income starts picking up and you can afford more, you can pay more. Better still, when you do pay more you know that...

Pensions to cope with life's ups and downs.



...if your circumstances take a knock, you can reduce what you pay in.* You can take a payment holiday, penalty free. And if you need to transfer your fund, there are no penalties† whatever. Fairer all round?

SCOTTISH WIDOWS

Looking good for your pension.

IF YOU'D LIKE TO KNOW MORE, TALK TO YOUR INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL ADVISER.

†A Market Level Adjustment may apply to UWP units. The value from units can go down as well as up. Future bonus rates are not guaranteed. *Payments are subject to a minimum, currently £30 per month gross. Further details of the benefits, charges and conditions of our personal pensions are given in the relevant product literature, available from us on request. Issued by Scottish Widows' Fund and Life Assurance Society, a mutual company. Regulated by the Personal Investment Authority.

Gifted pupils could be taught in masterclasses

Gifted primary school *children could be taught* in masterclasses as part of an expanded programme of specialist schools announced yesterday. *Judith Judd*, Education Editor, reports on a controversial scheme *designed to modernise* comprehensives.

Comprehensive school campaigners accused ministers of introducing selection by the back door with their proposals to increase the number of specialist schools from 258 to 300.

About 10 per cent of children for the schools specialising in technology, sport, music or arts will be selected on aptitude.

Specialist schools were set up by the last government to offer parents more choice. Ministers say that their scheme is different because specialist schools will have to share their facilities with neighbouring schools.

They argue that these schools, coupled with plans to send very bright primary children for lessons in secondary schools, are a way of modernising comprehensives and of keeping middle-class pupils in state schools, especially in the inner-cities.

Masterclasses for primary pupils in specialist schools will begin next September.

David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education and Employment, told the Technology Colleges Trust last night: "Specialist schools are at the heart of my vision – and that of the new government – of an education system where education caters for the individual strengths of children rather than assuming a bland sameness for all. Some people were surprised that the Government wanted to continue the specialist schools programme. We welcomed this great opportunity to further the causes of school improvement and school diversity.

"Comprehensive education must modernise. It cannot forever be stuck in the past – what some might see as a Sixties time warp. High and improving standards, setting by subject ability and the ability to foster specialist talents must all be part of the way forward."

A secondary school must raise £100,000 sponsorship from private sources if it wishes to apply for specialist status. Successful schools receive a capital grant of £100,000 and £100 per pupil per annum for three years.

The Campaign for the Advancement of State Education, the parents' pressure group for comprehensives, produced a letter from Estelle Morris, the schools minister, admitting that there was no published research showing that specialist schools raised standards.

Margaret Tulloch, of the campaign, said: "We support the Government's principle that no unfair privileges should be attached to a particular category of schools. To adhere to this principle there must be no selection.

"Ministers don't realise the extent to which if they call one school specialist the others become less special. It will be very difficult to make schools share resources."

Nigel de Gruchy, the general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers, said: "This has to be a return to selection.

"What is now called bland sameness a *couple of decades* ago used to be called equality *of opportunity*."

Masterclass: Year 11 GCSE pupils at Chestnut Grove School in Balham, south London, working on 3-dimensional models Photograph: Peter Macdiarmid

Colleges still facing cuts

Government advisers on higher education yesterday promised support for the special character of Oxford and Cambridge universities but left open the way for cuts in funding.

The board of the Higher Education Funding Council met to consider a request from the Government for advice on whether they should retain college fees worth £35m a year.

The fee money is paid on top of the general university grant to help fund tutors and libraries in individual colleges.

Sir Ron Dearing's review of higher education in the summer proposed a review of college fees. Ministers are known to be unhappy with the idea that Oxbridge should have more privileges than universities with more poorer students.

Funding Council members are keeping their advice to ministers confidential but a statement after the meeting said that they had "considered a number of options from maintaining the present system to replacing college fee income with grant to the universities".

If the Government chose an option which led to a cut in funding for the two universities, the council would "want to avoid damage to the quality of college teaching and research".

The council would not elaborate on the statement last night.

The council announced that it wants to introduce a new premium for high quality teaching which would benefit Oxbridge and other universities.

— Judith Judd

Teachers needlessly strangling themselves with red tape

Schools are making work *for themselves* by over-reacting to government initiatives. That is the message expected from a report by the consultants Coopers & Lybrand. *Judith Judd*, Education Editor, reports on a row about bureaucracy.

Ministers have delayed publication of the report on red tape in schools after a teachers' union objected to its draft conclusions.

Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers, said changes were needed in the laws which had imposed new duties on teachers.

Initial findings by Coopers & Lybrand show that many new demands on teachers since the 1970s have not been matched by opportunities to take time out of the classroom. They also reveal "major questions about the management and organisation of schools".

These include unnecessary meetings organised by heads and senior teachers, duplication of policies on subjects such as homework, with each department insisting on its own policy, despite the existence of a school policy, and needless recording of details of pupils' achievement. In addition, preparation for inspections is sometimes over-elaborate, the report, which is still being written, is expected to say.

Mr de Gruchy accused the Government of trying to bury the findings. The working group's draft report had tried to gloss over its findings about school management to avoid offending head teachers.

"The problem is not limited to head teachers. Many classroom teachers have been forced into positions of over-reacting to the pressures generated by the reforms of recent years.

"The two fundamental problems are the prescription from national level flowing from all the reforms and the reaction of management in schools. If the working group is not prepared to face these problems, then no resolution is in sight."

He said the group had been frustrated by the Government's insistence that it must work within the existing statutory framework. Meanwhile, proposed targets for schools and local authorities would impose more burdens on members.

Sources at the Department for Education said that Estelle Morris, the schools minister, wanted further discussions with teachers' leaders. "The minister is concerned to make sure that there is a substantial outcome which achieves the intended objectives and produces genuine gains for teachers."

The working group was set up by David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education, to improve relations with teachers.

1/2 PRICE
CLEARANCE
HURRY WHILE STOCKS LAST!
50% OFF OUTDOOR PLANTS
Half price clearance on selected Roses, Shrubs, Herbaceous, Alpines, Herbs and Planted arrangements*.
50% OFF SPRING FLOWERING BULBS
All Spring Flowering Bulbs reduced to half price*.
*Offer excludes gift packs of Amaryllis, Paperwhites, Narcissi and Hyacinths, potted and cut Chrismas trees, pre-packed plants, houseplants and stock with orange autumn/winter range stickers.
EARN TESCO CLUBCARD POINTS AT B&Q
Ask in store for details.
Does not apply in B&Q Warehouses or B&Q Depots.
OPENING HOURS
Monday-Saturday: Most stores 8am-8pm. Sunday: Most stores England & Wales 10am-4pm (where permitted). Scotland & Northern Ireland 9am-6pm. Certain store hours may vary, please 'phone your nearest store to confirm.
BRITAIN'S BIGGEST DIY CHAIN – FOR YOUR NEAREST STORE PHONE 0181 466 4166
Internet - http://www.diy.co.uk
Prices and offers may vary of B&Q Warehouses. Offers subject to availability at stores with Garden Centres. Please 'phone to check before travelling. Discounts deducted at checkout.
B&Q
YOU CAN DO IT WHEN YOU B&Q IT!

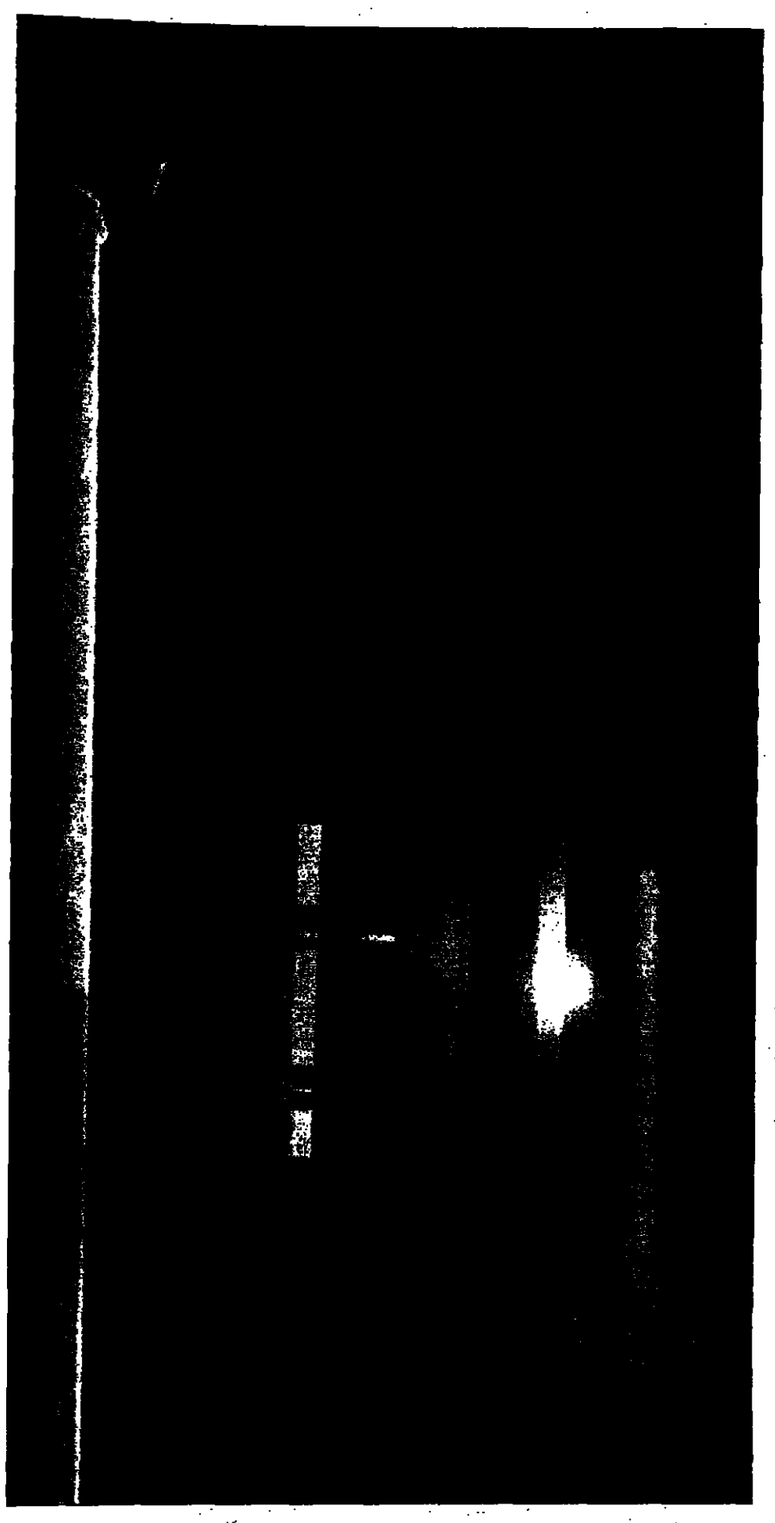
Interest Free
OfficeStation97
Multimedia Special
Order NOW Offer Ends This Week
32Mb RAM
32Mb RAM enhances the performance of this system, allows smooth multi-tasking and means that the 166M-2 system with MMX Technology out performs our 16Mb 233M systems.
4.3Gb Ultra ATA Hard Disk
The massive 4.3Gb unit gives you all the storage you are ever likely to need. Fast Ultra ATA interface improves performance. Do not consider anything less than 4.3Gb.
64-bit 4Mb Graphics
SIS advanced graphics using upto 4Mb RAM together with crisp sharp screens provide the ideal display
Speech Recognition
IBM Simply Speaking GOLD voice recognition software is preloaded and together with optional microphone allows you to command many PC functions and dictate virtually into any Windows 95 application!
24 MAX CD
High performance 24 Max CD drive delivers twice the maximum performance of 12 MAX CD drives and allows programs to run and load faster
3D Wavetable Sound
ESS 3D Wavetable stereo sound with 3D effects and software wavetable synthesis for the best quality
166-M2 MMX Processor
The 166M-2 system outperforms our 200+ and Intel 166MHz Pentium processor system with MMX technology. The advanced 200M-2 and 233M systems deliver the highest performance.
MONEY BACK GUARANTEE
The Best MMX Office 97 Deal!
This amazing high specification MMX PC system comes with the latest ATX specifications including high performance 166M-2 processor from IBM with MMX technology, 32Mb RAM, fast 4.3Gb Ultra ATA hard disk, 24 MAX CD, 3D Wavetable sound, SIS 4Mb advanced graphics, 512k burst cache and full multimedia.
The system comes complete with Microsoft Office 97 at a sensational price of just £899 +VAT. Pay under £109 deposit and nothing more for 6 months interest free!
For even higher specification take a look at our 200M, 200M-2 and 233M XL Interest Free OfficeStation systems which also include 56k voice modems, video conferencing recieve, massive 64Mb RAM (200M-2 & 233M) and more.
Order any of these systems early and also receive additional preloaded software with over 10 titles and IBM voicetype Simply Speaking GOLD (limited offer). All systems are available on 6 months Interest Free Credit Option!
Interest FREE OfficeStation97
166M-2
IBM 6x86MX PR166 Processor with MMX technology
32Mb EDO RAM
Seagate 4.3Gb Ultra ATA hard disk
LG 24 MAX CD-ROM drive
ESS 3D wavetable stereo sound
512k pipeline burst cache
SIS 64-bit advanced graphics using 4Mb of system RAM MPEG & Microsoft direct 3D support
Soundtone 525 main powered stereo speakers
ATX mid-tower design with ATX PCI97 motherboard and 2 USB ports
Speech recognition with IBM Simply Speaking GOLD preloaded
14" SVGA NI 0.28dp colour screen £159 +VAT = £187.08 and 17" £219+VAT =£257.33 extra
Microsoft Office 97 bundle with printed manuals
Additional preloaded software with Lotus Approach, SmartPics, eMail, Quicken 98, IBM Antivirus, PrestoWorks, DiagnWorks, Homewise and more!
All Standard Features: Windows 95 with manual & CD, 105 keyboard, 1.44Mb floppy drive, Pal2 mouse, advanced motherboard with all standard ports and year 2000 compliant BIOS, 90 minute video user guide, recovery disk, full support, 14 day money back guarantee (excluding carriage) and 12 months warranty extendable to 5 years.
Product codes: 14" 400-30-348; 15" 400-30-349; 17" 400-30-350
Everything For £899
£1056.33 inc. VAT
0% APR Interest FREE Option
Interest FREE Credit
EXTRA Software
Leisure/Education Pack Option
6 Games Pack Option
With PC including RAC Rally, FIFA 97, PGA Golf, Thorne Hospital, Command & Conquer and Magic Carpet 2 £39 +VAT = £45.83
Product code 999-30-330
Printer Option
Epson Stylus 300 720dpi Colour Inkjet Printer £129 +VAT = £151.58. Select required PC cable.
Product code 013-30-016
36 Time Showrooms
Freephone Time Now !
0800 77 11 07
Sales Lines Open: Monday - Friday 8.30am-8.00pm, Saturday 9.00am - 5.00pm, Sundays 10am - 4pm.
Offer Must End 8th November
TIME COMPUTER SYSTEMS

هكذا من الاصل

هكذا من الأصل

Even in Bath the millennium builds a head of steam

A brilliant scheme for a new bath house should not only restore Britain's most famous spa but also, says *Nonie Niesewand*, provide a modern building worthy of its setting.



Water world: Computer generated images of the planned bath-house which will have swimming pools, jacuzzis and treatment rooms. The bath stone building will have a glass facade which will hold hundreds of fine glass pipes to carry the thermal waters. The waters will be used to heat the building in winter and cool it in summer.

Bath is to have a new bath-house if the Millennium Commission gives its council £6.5m to develop the blue-plaque city as a spa town again.

Bath has Britain's only naturally occurring hot springs and the architect Nicholas Grimshaw has designed a building that uses the heat from the hot springs to heat it, as well as the pools and a Bath stone building behind a glass facade. Steaming away like its inhabitants, this facade will look like the opening to *Phantom of the Opera* with dry ice swirling in mists.

Hundreds of fine glass pipes sandwiched in the glass facade will carry thermal water from the earth's core to heat the building in winter and with venting, cool it in summer. The way he has used water and steam as an integral part of the building illustrates Grimshaw's eco-tech approach to architecture. In the scorching summer of 1992 in Sevile he made the British pavilion the coolest glass box with a fountain down the facade.

"It's a great opportunity to reunite Bath with its waters," said the architect, who proposes to connect the new Spa complex to the Roman baths with a wonder wall of steam from the end of Bath Street along the centre of the colonnaded Bath Street to terminate at the Cross Bath, restored as a working spa.

The wonder wall will link four historic listed buildings, the Cross Bath, the Hot Bath, the Pump Room and No7 Bath Street. And to build the new spa the Beau Street baths will be knocked down. An historic building in a World Heritage site, these municipal baths, built in the 1920s are no great loss. They have an acceptable stone elevation with a pediment at Beau Street, but ugly angled steel trusses, roof lined with asbestos. Besides, they had become rather "seedy" as Paul Simon, project manager for the Bath council, described them.

"Bath is renowned as a city of wonderful architecture but there's not one decent example of 20th-century architecture. This building by Grimshaw will be our last opporutnity."

Using water and light, glass and stone, the new Spa building will offer treatment rooms, hot baths and jacuzzis, as well as three swimming pools, available at special discounted rates for local residents. Sensitive to its historic site, proportions of the new building totally mirror the square plan and inner sanctum of the John Wood's Hot Bath, built in 1787. Paul Simon says that more than 300,000 Britons visit spas in Europe each year. So Bath council is determined to use its greatest natural resource, the million and a quarter litres of water arriving daily in three springs at a temperature of 43C to 47C. The heat of the water in the spa will take care of all the energy needs. The pungent, sulphuric natural water will have the iron and sulphur filtered out, by a process which uses no chemicals, to stop it staining the limestone orange, not because bathers mind holding their noses when taking the plunge.

Spas have fallen from fashion so much that some spa towns capped off their natural resource. Leamington built a library over its spa, and Buxton a shopping centre. Bath's spa town image had fallen from its Jane Austen fashionability and patronage from royalty. Now the other spa towns are getting steamed up over this millennium bid: Buxton, Cheltenham and Harrogate have written letters of support. Clearly the venture, if it is succesful, could set a trend. But when does a spa become a health hydro, or worse a leisure centre? Bath council which will lease for 25 years the operation of the spa to a Dutch company called Thermolyae, is keen to promote the healing powers of taking the waters, along with aromatherapy, massage and watsu – the shiatsu method of working out in water.

"Leisure centre, yes, but waterworld with wave machines and so on, definitely not," Mr Simon said.

"No shrieking and yelling. More like flotation tanks in the knowledge that waters helps stresses, backs, skin ailments."

So how do you prevent it getting like Lourdes?

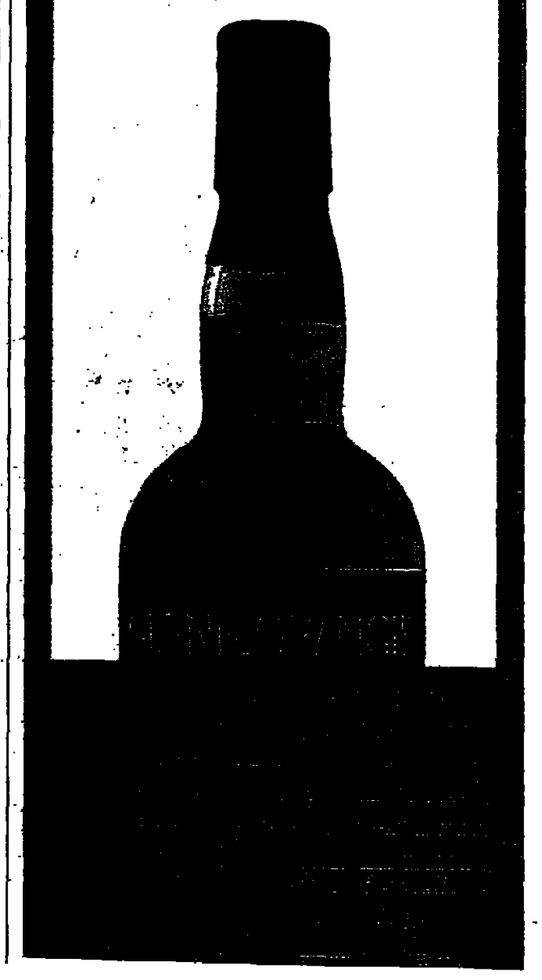
"Cross Bath is the sacred pagan shrine of the Celts, one that the Romans dedicated, and there are those – myself included – who believe that it is a spiritual place within the space. At present it is enclosed by a semi-derelict Georgian stone wall and glimpsed through a metal grille in the wall. It is atmospheric and moving. That will be left for people to make the pilgrimage to those waters," Mr Simon said. Then there are rooms for serious medical treatment, from straightforward physiotherapy to acupuncture and hydrotherapy.

Throughout the research of the project, Bath council involved a disabled access lobby group in Bath which was given a grant separately to pay for its own architectural consultant to advise on the lifts, ramps and hydraulic platforms for pool areas. And Mr Simon hiked across France and Germany, Spain and Hungary to discover just why Continental employees build into workers' contracts sabbaticals at a health hydro every few years.

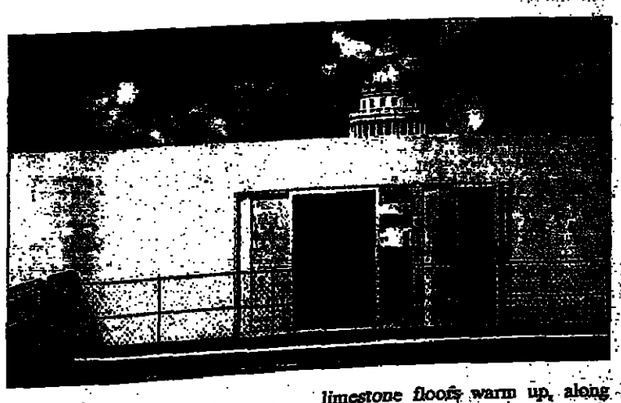
Unlike so many projects tumbling from the drawing boards of architects around the country to get the last lottery money from the Millennium Commission, this project has been ingeniously worked through both in style and content. As the Ove Arup engineer Alistair Guthrie says "Nick Grimshaw has made a real effort to integrate new technology and new ideas within the context of Bath. There is a certain sense of old set against the new – Bath stone buildings against the glass buildings flow from one to the other". Equally important, Bath Spa addresses the way in which all these Millennium-funded projects will be judged in the next century – by projected attendance figures.

Bath is already the fourth biggest tourist attraction in Britain, after London, Edinburgh, and York. The council is determined to make the most of this position with the 18th-century, small and intimate spaces enhanced by the big bold Grimshaw complex that will run as a viable commercial venture. In order to qualify for Millennium Commission funding, a scheme must look back over the last two millennia and forward to the new one.

Fresh black pepper
with a strong trace of humbugs
emerge when you add a drop of water.
The flavour is cool to the palate but spicy on the tongue, fresh, citrus and sweet.



The smartest walk-in cupboard in Paris



A tiny apartment which uses new technology to utilise small spaces has been shortlisted for a major prize. *Nonie Niesewand* explores the revolutionary rooftop

Estate agents are targeting a new breed of international clients whose des. res. has to be a "lock up and go". Downsized, downtown, and smart enough to function without its owner. This rooftop apartment in Paris measures just 8m by 4m, little more than a walk-in cupboard.

But it has other mindblowing virtues: as its owner, the international human rights lawyer Chris Avery, Eurostars it to his Paris *pied-à-terre* for the weekend, a phone call from him activates the system which makes the limestone floors warm up, along with the water. This is smart architecture, and behind smart architecture there's always a smart architect.

Mark Guard, the designer of this apartment calls it "a flexible envelope in three inter-connecting boxes". Panels that slide or pivot can make three rooms or open out into open plan. Between the kitchen and the bathroom is an electro-chromic clear glass door which turns opaque when it is closed (an electrical impulse activates the coating). This kind of responsive glass gives privacy without cutting light from the core.

By singling it out as the winner of the RIBA housing award, to be shortlisted with six other buildings for the Stirling prize later this month, the institute is making a point about houses of the future. It uses the new technology to make the most of small spaces and shows how to pack in a lot of ideas within a few cubic metres.

Behind sliding doors which are hinged to fold back flat, are three distinct areas for sleeping, bathing and cooking combined with living (doubling as a guest room with a sofa bed hidden in a stretch limo of a white sofa). All the essentials of modern living are here and neatly concealed: TV, washing machine, fridges, and wardrobes neatly concealed. It uses limestone, glass and wood for a simple structural formality without sacrificing comfort. The sleeping area and the bathing area are at the furthest end of the rectangular apartment, separated by sliding screens.

"We needed to plan it to keep the full visual dimensions of the envelope" said Mark Guard who added that the brief was complicated by the client wanting his friends and family to have somewhere to sleep. So he devised the open plan to have private partitioning when needed.

The exterior is a bit *Bladerunner*, criss-crossed with walkways on the roof. It used to be the janitor's flat on top of an eight-storey Art Déco building in the 5th arrondisment, reached by taking a lift ride to the top floor. The front door opens rather disconcertingly on to the roof, rather than into an apartment, for a walk among the chimney pots to this little glass fronted house facing west among the satellite dishes.

Mark Guard opened up the view of the domes of the Pantheon and Val de Grase, the cathedral that is now a military hospital. Then he extended the limestone floor from within on to a terrace for al fresco summer dining.

The original was a very dilapidated cement structure with algae in the interior so it had to be rebuilt and fitted for a price of £118,400. Mark Guard found it cheaper to buy French limestone slabs for the floors in Britain and to ship them to Paris where everything costs more. He's hesitant about calling himself a minimalist because he doesn't like the "isms" in architecture. He insists that his work is not about reduction, but more about addition as he adds layers of function within the existing space.

Vision of the future: The electro-chromic clear glass door between the kitchen and bathroom turns opaque when it is closed. The apartment (above left) is on the top of an eight-storey building

Mark Ravenhill, the gay playwright famous for 'Shopping and Fucking' wrote the third series of 'This Life'. When it was cancelled there were dark rumours that it was his fault. Not so, he tells *David Benedict.*

'This Life' in his hands? Up to a point. Mark Ravenhill says it was not gay sex that killed off Britain's favourite small-screen co-habitees

Photograph: Adrian Dennis

At last! Exclusive! What really killed off 'This Life'. By the writer many blame

"When I first started, people didn't care when I mentioned that I wasn't using any of the old characters," says Mark Ravenhill, the writer entrusted with creating a third series of *This Life*. "But in the end it reached the point where if I said 'Anna's not going to be in it', entire rooms would go silent. It was extraordinary. People would come up to me and say threateningly, 'I hear you're going to get rid of Miles...' It's so ironic. I'm going to be more publicly lambasted, ridiculed and attacked for dropping a character called Miles from a soap than I am for putting rimming and buggery on the West End stage."

And lambasted he certainly has been. As rumours of the demise of *This Life* grew, and turned into "fact", fingers were pointed in several directions. Who had brought about this television catastrophe? More fingers pointed at Ravenhill than at anyone else. He was tried by the media and found guilty without hitherto saying a word in his own defence. Mark Ravenhill had killed off *This Life* by writing a story line that was too gay. Shopped it and fucked it, so to speak.

The truth, according to Ravenhill, is less dramatic and more complicated and focuses not upon him and homosexuality, but on Tony Garnett, the 61-year old producer, a radical since the Sixties who fell out of love with the programme. Why? Because all the experimental reasons for its existence had gone.

Gayness, as Ravenhill points out, certainly was not the problem. The first two series had a dramatically high sex count and from the very beginning the programme quickly established itself as gay cult viewing. This was, after all, late-night BBC2.

When Warren, one of the original characters left the show, the gay quotient was continued by the complicated shenanigans of the bisexual despatch-rider Ferdy – who proved so popular that he is now emblazoned upon the poster for the current London stage version of *Jesus Christ Superstar*.

"I looked at the first two series," says Ravenhill, "and said to the producers, 'well, I think you've done gay men pretty thoroughly. It would almost be nice not to have any for a while'. I was asked to be the lead writer, which meant writing 'the bible' [the outline for the new, thirteen-episode series which Garnett's company wanted to commission] and the key episodes.

"I put a couple of subsidiary gay characters in my bible, and a big lesbian storyline which hotted up as the series went on, but there was less male sexuality than before.

"At that time, the second series had just started, but it wasn't anything like the cult it became by the end."

When Ravenhill met Garnett,whose track record includes such groundbreaking, influential works as *Cathy Come Home* and *Kes*, he was suitably impressed. "He's an extraordinary man. He's got real integrity, real standards. He can be a bit of a difficult old bugger but it's always built around trying to do the right thing."

Ravenhill duly accepted the commission but realised that he was in difficult territory: the BBC wanted the third series to be very much like the second, but Garnett was not exactly wedded to that idea.

Although much of the recent gossip was about which of the cast would return, they had already all been killed off. "Tony always liked new stuff. I think he saw it as the fringe theatre of TV. He always wanted new actors, new writers, new directors... it was like a training ground. Having regulars wasn't in the spirit of the original conception."

Ravenhill even removed the whole idea of lawyers from the equation. He was much more interested in the difficulties of a fresh group of twentysomethings sharing a house and trying to deal with the fact that although they are old friends, they now have vastly differing incomes.

Much of the blame for the *This Life* "tragedy" was dumped on the shoulders of Mark Thompson, controller of BBC2 – who is said to have delayed too long and thus lost the cast to other projects – but Ravenhill is swift to defend him. "He was accused of dithering but I think that was very unfair."

So what did happen in the end? "Tony called me and said: 'You're going to hate me for this, but I'm not going to make a third series and you'll probably not want to talk to me for a while, but if you ever have an idea for the future, come to me.' And that was that."

Ravenhill bears Garnett no ill-will whatsoever, which might seem surprising, except when you consider that he has been paid to undertake a masterclass in writing drama for television, something most young writers would gladly give their eye-teeth for.

Garnett is notoriously wary of the press and has remained silent but for the brief press release in which he stressed the excellence of Ravenhill's work and the friendliness of the relationship between his own production company and the BBC. As far as he's concerned, "in the end, I decided it was time to move on".

Fans may have wanted to follow the fallout from the gruesome marital finale of series two, but Garnett quit while he was ahead. He didn't want to repeat the formula – several of the cast were unavailable anyway – and the risks in a "new improved" version were very high. He had, it should be recalled, been on similarly dangerous territory before.

It was Garnett who made the excellent police investigation series *Between the Lines*. At the end of series two, the plot exploded, leaving the third series as a pale imitation of its ratings-grabbing predecessors. There was a distinct danger that history might repeat itself. With the BBC hungry for more work from the company, mature reflection would suggest cutting *This Life* off in its prime may have been the smartest of moves.

Should I tell my friend the bad news about her new lover?

VIRGINIA IRONSIDE

DILEMMAS

Iris's best friend slept with a new man when they were drunk. Now she's excited, almost preparing for marriage. But Iris has heard that he's told a friend it was all very funny, and he was dragged to bed by her. Should she tell her friend?

Isn't it interesting to see what happens after a one-night stand? He brags to his mates that it was nothing – he was dragged to bed by a beautiful woman and hey, what a stud he is and yet what a nightmare it all was; she, on the other hand, justifies it by practically setting a marriage date with wedding bells pealing over the countryside.

What is Iris's role in all this? For she, too, has a part in the drama. Is it a kind of aggression that makes her want to reveal to her friend a confidence that will hurt her desperately, and sabotage any relationship the two lovers might have in the future? Or is it a weird kind of desire for absolution, a belief that honesty is the best policy, however cruel?

Some people can keep secrets. They are the better type of person, those who realise that their knowledge has the potential to hurt. The others are those within whom secrets itch to get out, within whom secrets feel like a burp or a fart, painful blobs of poison gas that need release. The truth is that the man might just have been boasting; and her friend might just have been fantasising. There is always a chance that they may have the opportunity of a real relationship together. And if Iris is so keen on telling the truth, then shouldn't she, logically, tell the man, too, about the fact that her best friend has been fantasising about marriage? That would put the cat among the pigeons.

Secrets are very hard to bear. They fester within us, longing for an outlet. Gossip is a useful way of discharging the burden of secrets without actually telling the protagonists in a situation that you know about them. By telling her friend directly that her one-night stand has been behaving badly, at least in conversation, Iris risks losing the friendship. It is the bearer of the bad news, after all, who frequently is put to the sword, not the perpetrator of the act.

She should ask herself which is more painful: losing a friendship, or keeping the secret? Keeping a secret is often agonising, but it is often the right and moral thing to do, for in the long run you find that the secrets are distortions of the truth, and it's only later that you are delighted to find they have no foundation.

I recently had a "frank and truthful" letter from a friend, about a situation in which I had not acquitted myself too well, that hurt me enormously. Had she never written, the problem would have sorted itself out satisfactorily. No more would have been said; time and general goodwill would have sorted it out. She described the letter as a method of "lancing the boil", but the very fact that she had written a letter created another boil. Those who attempt to mediate by telling the truth, in other words, often get killed or punished in the telling.

If I were Iris, I would not attempt to interfere in something that is none of my business anyway. She is a confidante, a friend, not a spy. And if she is a true friend she must bear the burden of confidence she has been given, and do her best to erase it from her mind.

NEXT WEEK'S DILEMMA

You'll think this a trivial problem, but last week I had beautiful long hair and I went to the hairdresser asking for a trim and he persuaded me to have it all cut off in a new, short style. Since then I have been beside myself with unhappiness. I cry every time I look in the mirror. People say it will grow again, but it could take months or even years. I can't bear the idea of wearing a wig. I just don't look like me any more. But I can't understand why I am so depressed. I have even felt suicidal, though I would never go ahead with it.
Sara

Letters are welcome, and everyone who has a suggestion quoted will be sent a bouquet from Interflora. *Send comments to me at the Features Department, 'The Independent', 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL (fax 0171-293 2182), to arrive by next Tuesday morning. And if you have a dilemma that you would like to share, please let me know.*

WHAT READERS SAY

Who are you to know best?
I haven't heard of such a large assumption since the Virgin Mary. What do you mean, you have heard he thought it was funny? Who are you to know that he has just used her?

If you were in court your deductions would be laughed at. Leave them alone – don't listen to second-hand gossip, don't think that the Chinese whispers you have heard reflect his feelings, and certainly don't tell anyone who might be hurt by it.
Toby Butler
Hampton Court
Surrey

Just be a good friend
The role of a best friend, in offering insight into a new guy, changes as the relationship develops. If he fails to ring at an early stage, there are so many possible reasons, ranging from the lack of interest that you suspect in this man, to the genuine affection but reluctance to start a new relationship that might be seen in a decent bloke who's just emerged from another relationship.

At this initial stage, your friend would gain nothing from being told the brutal truth of the former, when a gentler letdown would be to believe the latter. Obviously, if your friend dates this guy for some time and he's behaving like a rat, then you would be bound through loyalty to tell her what you suspect about him.

I'm always slightly suspicious of "best friends" who seem to take great glee in telling you how indifferent a guy is; it smacks of envy and spite. Are you sure you're not feeling slightly piqued at being usurped in her affections by this new guy?

In any case, even if your motives are pure protectiveness, you can't believe everything you hear; lads by definition lad about with their laddy mates, and it may be that this guy really does like your friend, but has been boasting. I would keep quiet for the moment, but if the phone remains silent, be there with a box of tissues, a bottle of wine and a copy of *Bridget Jones's Diary*.
Leyla Sanai
Glasgow

Don't make judgements
No – absolutely not; you would be making judgements about the actions of two consenting adults, and you would be colluding in hearsay. Even if the conversation between the two men has been repeated verbatim, it may in itself have been an exaggeration.

Allow free access of communication between the two parties. Your friendship will best be served by lending an ear when asked.
M Leishman
London W4

Your role is to be a support
No, no – please don't tell her. But listen with interest and pleasure to her dreams – perhaps with a casual "Well, it may be a bit early to make plans. You might go off him ..."

Then, if it all falls apart, as you fear, she can turn to you, her best friend, for support and commiseration that "he wasn't worth it", and, "you'll find a much better fellow who'll see what a lovely girl you are", etc.

What she wants is your friendship at this time – not a kick in the teeth.
Katherine Whittle
Bolton
Lancashire

Iris's friend must take the consequences of her actions
I think adults are better off when they take responsibility for their own lives.

I know this can be hard, but it can lead to learning and growth.

One difficulty is that Iris cannot be sure of the facts. Hearsay can be misleading, and confuse the issue. On an adult level, I think that Iris needs to take a step back and not get involved (unless invited by her friend).

If Iris's information is correct, her best friend has a shock in store. However, it was her friend's choice to do what she did, and her decision to react the way she has. Iris's friend will be stronger for bearing the full consequences of her own actions, painful though they may be.

Iris, as a best friend, can be there as a true source of support.
Nicholas E Gough,
Swindon
Wiltshire

THE INDEPENDENT
WANT SOME ADVICE ON YOUR TAX RETURN! TRY OUR NEW
FAXBACK SERVICE
RELOCATION EXPENSES & BENEFITS GUIDE
0891 448 901
COMPANY CAR BENEFITS
0891 448 902
MOBILE PHONES/COMPANY/VANS/MEDICAL INSURANCE/TRANSFER OF ASSETS
0891 448 903
From the handset of your fax machine dial the appropriate number and await the instructions to press the start button. Having completed that procedure, replace the handset on your fax machine and your information will start to appear within a few seconds.
All calls are charged at 50p per minute

هكذا من الاصل

هكذا من الاصل

Harold Plenderleith

Harold James Plenderleith, museum conservator: born Coatbridge, Lanarkshire 19 September 1898; MC 1918; Assistant Keeper, British Museum 1927-38, Deputy Keeper 1938-49; Keeper, Research Laboratory 1949-59; member, Honorary Scientific Advisory Committee, National Gallery 1935-81, Chairman 1944-58; Professor of Chemistry, Royal Academy of Arts 1936-58; Director, International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property 1959-71 (Emeritus); CBE 1959; President, International Institute for the Conservation of Museum Objects 1965-68; FBA 1973; married 1926 Elizabeth Smyth (died 1982), 1988 Margaret MacLennan (née McLeod; one stepson, three stepdaughters); died Inverness 2 November 1997.

Meeting of the commission of inquiry into the van Meegeren forgeries held at The Hague in 1946. Left to right: Martin de Wild, Harold Plenderleith, Professor W. Froentjes, Paul Coremans and Ian Rawlins

Harold Plenderleith was Keeper of the British Museum Research Laboratory from 1949 to 1959, and first director of the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property in Rome (now known as Iccrom) from 1959 to 1971.

He had been recruited in 1924 by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research to work, under the direction of Alexander Scott FRS, in a small laboratory established five years previously at the British Museum to investigate the causes of the deterioration of certain types of museum objects during wartime storage in underground railway tunnels.

In the 1920s he was involved with Howard Carter on the scientific analysis of finds from the tomb of Tutankhamun and in the 1920s and 1930s with the analysis and conservation of Sir Leonard Woolley's finds from the excavations at Ur of the Chaldees. His first 10 years of museum experience led to the publication of his book *The Preservation of Antiquities* in 1934. *The Conservation of Prints, Drawings and Manuscripts* followed in 1937 and *The Preservation of Leather Bookbindings* in 1946.

Plenderleith's early years were difficult as Scott was rarely present and the laboratory was ruled by a former retainer of his called Ernest Padgham. However, in 1931 the laboratory was transferred from SDIR to the British Museum and Plenderleith became an assistant keeper; he was promoted to deputy keeper in 1938.

In the 1930s international co-operation in the field of museum conservation was gathering pace, with Plenderleith playing an ever-increasing role. The League of Nations established an International Museum Office which organised conferences in Rome (1930), Athens (1931), Paris (1933) and Madrid (1934) to discuss the conservation of works of art, antiquities and monuments. Plenderleith was present at Paris and Madrid and was joint editor of a manual on the conservation of paintings which derived from these meetings. However, this co-operation came to an abrupt end with war in Europe. Even the first specialised journal devoted to this field, to which Plenderleith contributed several papers, *Technical Studies in the Field of Fine Arts*, published by the Fogg Art Museum at Harvard University, ceased publication in 1942.

Harold Plenderleith was born in 1898, the eldest of four children of an art teacher at the Harris Academy in Dundee and the daughter of a medical missionary in New Zealand. He was educated at the Harris Academy, where he won the Dux Medal in his final year, and then went up to the University College of St Andrews in 1916 to read science. He left after two terms to go to Officer Training School, hoping then to join a Highland regiment. He found himself, however, gazetted second lieutenant to the Lancashire Fusiliers, who, as Plenderleith himself once said with a grin, "needed stiffening with Scots officers".

He served on the Western Front from 1 August 1917, being wounded in the arm by shrapnel at Ypres, and awarded an MC for a successful night raid across no man's land to knock out a pill-box and take prisoners. He returned to university after convalescence, but this time at University College, Dundee, and graduated BSc in 1920 and PhD in 1923.

Plenderleith was too old for war service in 1939 (although his batman from 1917-18 wrote to say that he would like to be his servant again), but he played a key role in saving the British Museum collections from bombing by working with the Director, Sir John Forsdyke, to get as much as possible away to safety in various country houses and a slate quarry in Wales.

This time round, however, thanks to the work of Harold Plenderleith, much more was known about the optimum storage conditions for antiquities so that the "safe" destinations were not only safe from bombing but safe from the point of view of the environment. Plenderleith was later to record in a lecture delivered at the British Museum in November 1978 to mark his 80th birthday that "all the antiquities came back this time in perfect condition".

With the cessation of hostilities, Plenderleith became involved in the examination and conservation (by Herbert Maryon and Herbert Batten) of the finds from the Anglo-Saxon royal ship burial excavated at Sutton Hoo, near Woodbridge, in August 1939 and then quickly "reburied" in the Aldwych tube for the duration. Many of the objects have since been reconserved to better effect, but this does not diminish the contribution made to our understanding of the ship and the king who was buried in it which was made by this trio.

One of their "mistakes" was to restore the pair of silver-mounted drinking horns on the basis of measurements made on the skull of an aurochs, the prehistoric wild cattle of Europe, at the Natural History Museum. They were unaware, however, that the aurochs had undergone a dramatic reduction in size during the last glaciation, so that by Anglo-Saxon times the horns were more modest in size. The drinking horns have since been re-restored and reduced in size from a volume of 12 pints to four, with a consequent reduction in our admiration for the bibulous capacity of our forebears.

In 1947 Plenderleith was [illegible] the Dutch government [illegible] part of the commission of inquiry into the van [illegible]. Henricus van [illegible] been accused of collaboration with the enemy for selling a painting by "Vermeer" to Hermann Goering, [illegible] Meegeren's defence was [illegible] had sold Goering a fake [illegible] he had painted himself. However, he also had to reveal that he had sold fakes to Dutch museums and collectors, so he was charged with fraud instead of collaboration.

Some of those members of the Dutch art world who had been deceived refused to co-operate, and a panel of international experts was invited to inquire into how van Meegeren had managed to create the paintings. Plenderleith felt sorry for van Meegeren, giving him cigarettes during the interrogation, and himself failing to see how anybody could have been fooled by the paintings, which had been made to look old with a false "patina" created using modern synthetic resins.

Plenderleith was appointed Keeper of the British Museum Research Laboratory in 1949 and published *The Conservation of Antiquities and Works of Art* in 1956 (a second edition, prepared with A.E.A. Werner, appeared in 1971). He was one of the founding fathers of the International Institute for the Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works and its first honorary treasurer (from 1950 to 1958). He became a vice-president in 1958, and President from 1965 to 1968.

Under Plenderleith's vigorous leadership, the British Museum Research Laboratory branched out after the war into Carbon 14 dating and developed the scientific examination of antiquities by acquiring a battery of analytical instruments for the rapid analysis of metals, pigments, ceramics and gemstones.

Plenderleith had, by this time, become an international figure, much in demand as a lecturer and consultant and it was no surprise, therefore, when he was invited by Unesco in 1959 to be the first director of its new International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property in Rome. He spent 12 years there, developing teaching courses and travelling the world on advisory missions, until final retirement, to Dundee, in 1971.

Harold Plenderleith was a big man with a broad Scots accent, of which he was proud. He was universally liked, and regarded as the doyen of museum conservators right up until his death. He gave his services instinctively, being a member of the Scientific Advisory Committee of the National Gallery for 46 years and its chairman from 1944 to 1958, Professor of Chemistry at the Royal Academy of Arts from 1936 to 1958, and Rhind lecturer at Edinburgh in 1954.

In 1987 he attended the Jubilee Conference of the Institute of Archaeology of London University and its proceedings were dedicated to him, as were those of a British Museum conference in 1988, the year in which his former colleagues around the world celebrated his 90th birthday with a manuscript book of reminiscences. As recently as November 1995 he was in Rome to receive a bronze bust by the sculptor Peter Rockwell, which will stand in the new laboratories at Iccrom which will bear his name, and in September 1996 he travelled to Edinburgh to receive a specially struck silver medal from the Conservation Committee of the International Council of Museums which was holding its triennial conference.

Within the space of half an hour he received three standing ovations from 600 conservators, many of whom were not even born when he retired from the British Museum.

– Andrew Oddy

Tony Mayer

Tony Mayer, diplomat: born Paris 17 February 1902; married; died Ménerbes, France 31 October 1997.

In many ways Tony Mayer was the Englishman's Frenchman. During his 28 years in London he was, from 1945 *the* Cultural Attaché, the senior of the many officials who held that title, but his was a permanent posting: the others came and went after two or three years, while he remained in London until his retirement, and his role never seemed exactly defined.

His presence was discreet but ubiquitous, and seemed to have as much to do with commercial and diplomatic matters as with cultural. He knew everyone and was interested in everything, and he always seemed capable of bringing Anglo-French problems and differences to a satisfactory conclusion. If you approached him with an idea that would enhance the French presence in British life and he agreed with it, the idea became a reality. He was the embassy's fixer.

During his years in office London was fortunate to have some of the more cultured and sophisticated French ambassadors, and they gave a tone to the receptions at which Mayer was ever present, explaining what the guests did in life and their importance to cross-channel co-operation.

Urbane, unflappable, he was a genial host at his own parties, sometimes under trying circumstances, as when Eugène Ionesco, on a visit to London, got very drunk just before a dinner given in his honour. He was put to bed, excuses were made, the dinner went normally, and Ionesco made an appearance later in the evening.

Mayer presided over what can now be seen to have been a golden age for the arts at the French Embassy in the late Fifties and during the Sixties, and although there were others with similar enthusiasm and competence, Tony Mayer was the man mostly responsible. London had a steady flow of French concerts, most of them at the Wigmore Hall, although the Royal Festival Hall, many provincial venues and the French Institutes in different British cities all had their share: French artists of every description, singers, soloists, ensembles and orchestras introduced programmes of French music in all its rich variety, music seldom heard now.

At the same time Mayer found ways to bring French drama companies to perform in London theatres, to perform at the Edinburgh Festival, and to tour. French authors, at his invitation, came to talk about their work or to read it at universities and the cultural institutes that the embassy maintained at Oxford, Glasgow and Edinburgh. French plays were recommended for translation, publishers were helped with their translation costs and receptions to promote novelists and playwrights brought them to the attention of literary editors and critics. Exhibitions of French art were negotiated with museums and galleries.

When de Gaulle came to London after the fall of France in 1940, calling all French citizens who were able to escape the German occupation to follow him and continue the struggle from Britain, Tony Mayer, who had been an exchange agent on the Paris Stock Exchange, responded. As a Jew it was fortunate that he did. During the Second World War he started his concerts (he came from a musical family) and his archives in old age still held the yellowing programmes, typed on wartime paper, of piano recitals, string quartets and chamber ensembles, singers and soloists, some French, some British, many just starting their careers, but the music was always French.

After 1945 these continued with Poulenc, Milhaud, Germaine Tailleferre, Dutilleux, Jean Françaix and others appearing as artists as well as composers, and Britten, Peter Pears and Marion Stein (later Lady Harewood and Mrs Jeremy Thorpe) were among the many British names. Over 120 French composers appeared.

Peter Daubeney, who brought to London seasons of imported theatre companies, received subsidy through the embassy to bring Jean-Louis Barrault, Madeleine Renaud and Edwige Feuillère in their Paris productions and other impresarios found that Mayer's was the hand that could find ways to make things work: he knew how to approach the London financiers with artistic interests and get them to contribute.

In the 1950s London discovered Sartre, Anouilh, Roussin, then Ionesco, Adamov, and Beckett, then Obaldia, Dubillard and Arrabal. Although that great Francophile Harold Hobson, theatre critic of the *Sunday Times*, played a large role, the translation of these authors into English and their publication under British imprints would most of the time not have been possible without the strong support that came from the French Embassy. Ambassadors Chauvel and, later, de Courcel gave large and small receptions, and lunch and dinner parties, so that Robbe-Grillet, Nathalie Sarraute, Marguerite Duras and others could meet the British intelligentsia, and they paid for Hélène Cixous and Claude Mauriac to open the new French section of Better Books in Edinburgh.

In 1960, in spite of the opposition of the French foreign ministry, Chauvel, himself a poet and essayist, found ways through Mayer to help subsidise a long-planned publishers' promotional tour of three avant-garde French writers of the *nouveau roman* to 12 British universities: the disapproval was caused by their having signed a much-publicised manifesto against the Algerian war.

Tony Mayer retired in 1968 and missed the philistine era that came with the Thatcher government, and he was not sorry that he never had to meet her. He bought a spacious house overlooking a fertile valley at Ménerbes near Aix-en-Provence and Avignon, where the music and drama festivals found in him an ardent supporter, and where many other old friends were living or were frequent visitors.

Mayer wrote a book about the English, *La Vie anglaise*, a best-seller in France, which did well in its English version, published by Gollancz in 1958. It gave a brief history of the British people and took an amused but sharply accurate look at English habits and eccentricities; some of his observations were not appreciated. *La Vie anglaise* covers the same ground as George Mikes's *How To Be An Alien*, but digs much deeper, although its tone is always warm and affectionate. Those who knew him returned that affection.

– John Calder

Mayer: fixer to the French

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

BIRTHS

AYLIFFE: On 1 November at Chelsea and Westminster to Will and Louise, a son, Frederick (Freddie) Jack.

COKE: To John and Jayne (née Elkins), on 25 October, a fine son, Edmund Charles John, a brother for Matilda.

DEATHS

HUNT: Unexpectedly on Saturday 1 November 1997, Dr Gordon Peter George, late of Hove. Aged 68 years. Beloved brother of Gloria, dearly loved friend of Chris, Rick and Maude. Sadly missed by friends. Funeral service at Woodvale North Chapel, Lewes Road, Brighton, on Thursday 13 November at 12.45pm, followed by burial at Bear Road Cemetery, Brighton. Flowers may be sent to W.A. Stringer & Son, 12 Kensington Gardens, Brighton BN1 4AL, telephone 01273 603806.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

ROSTRON: Dr David Jodrell, died 20 September 1997. A memorial for him will be held at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon, on Sunday 23 November 1997 at 3.30pm and afterwards at the Shakespeare Hotel. Those wishing to attend are asked to advise Mrs Thelma Brazier, telephone 01299 823631.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS may be telephoned to 0171-293 2011 (24-hour answering machine 0171-293 2012) or faxed to 0171-293 2010, and are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra).

Birthdays

Dr James Barber, former Master, Hatfield College, Durham, 66; Professor Lord Bauer, economist, 82; Mr James Bowman, operatic countertenor, 56; Mr Frank Carson, comedian, 71; M Jacques Charrier, actor, 61; Mr Ray Coniff, songwriter, 81; Mr David Exham, Headmaster, Bloxham School, 53; Miss Sally Field, actress, 51; *Dr Keith Griffin*, economist, 59; Mr Nigel Havers, actor, 48; Mr Bernat Klein, designer, 75; Dr Stephen Ladyman MP, 45; Mr Leonard Miall, broadcasting historian, 83; Mr David Montgomery, chief executive, Mirror Group Newspapers, 49; Admiral Sir Anthony Morton, King of Arms, *Order of the* British Empire, 74; Mr David Moss, High Commissioner to Malaysia, 59; Mr Mike Nichols, film and theatre director, 66; Lord Nimmo Smith, a Senator of the College of Justice in Scotland, 55; General Sir David Ramsbotham, former Adjutant General, 63; Professor Sir Martin Roth, psychiatrist, 80; Mr Ron Saunders, football manager, 65; Sir Oliver Scott Bt, radiobiologist, 75; Sir George Sinclair, former colonial administrator, 85; Mr Malcolm Thyne, Headmaster, Fettes College, 55; Mr Graeme Wood, cricketer, 41.

Anniversaries

Births: Thomas Kyd, playwright, 1558; Adolphe (Antoine-Joseph) Sax, inventor of the saxophone, 1814; Dr James A. Naismith, inventor of basketball, 1861. **Deaths:** Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky, composer, 1893; Kate (Catherine) Greenaway, children's book illustrator, 1901. **On this day:** Abraham Lincoln was elected as 16th US President, 1860; the third battle of Ypres ended, 1917. **Today** is the Feast Day of St Barlaam of Khutyn, St Demetrian of Khytri, St Ililtud, St Leonard of Noblac, St Melaine and St Winnoc.

Lectures

Tate Gallery: Rachel Barnes, "The Sublime and Picturesque": Turner's travels down the Loire", 1pm.

British Museum: Svetlana Lloyd, "Sensuous Art Nouveau to Sophisticated Art Deco: jewellery and fashion", 1.15pm.

National Portrait Gallery: Nicholas Phillipson, "Characters and Characterisation in Raeburn's Portraits", 1.10pm.

King's College London: Professor John Stokes, "Prodigals and Profligates: a short history of modern British drama", 5pm.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Duke of York accompanies The Queen Mother to the Field of Remembrance at St Margaret's Church, Westminster Abbey, London SW1. The Duke of York, Patron, attends a rehearsal of the City Ballet of London at the London Sinfonia Centre, York Way, London N1. The Princess Royal opens the Rehabilitation Centre, Foley Road, Aberdeen; opens the Aberdeen Maritime Museum, Shiprow, Aberdeen; is President, Save the Children Fund, attends the Young People's Seminar on board HMY *Britannia*, Aberdeen; and, as President, Animal Health Trust, holds a reception and dinner on board HMY *Britannia*, Aberdeen. Princess Margaret, Colonel-in-Chief, the Light Dragoons, attends the Officers' Annual Dinner at the Cavalry and Guards Club, Piccadilly, London W1. The Duchess of Gloucester opens Christchurch Housing Society's Community Hall at Homelands, and afterwards opens Hyperion (Homeless Young People in Eastern District) accommodation in Stony Lane South, Christchurch, Dorset. The Duke of Kent attends a gala concert at the Wigmore Hall, London W1.

Changing of the Guard

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, Lond.

LAW REPORT: 6 NOVEMBER 1997

Newspaper article during trial in contempt of court

The publication of an article in the *Evening Standard*, containing photographs of and giving details of the previous convictions and terrorist connections of three men during their trial for breaking prison, was a contempt of court despite the fact that the jury knew from the outset that the defendants had been convicted of serious crimes.

Attorney General v Associated Newspapers Ltd and ors; Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Lord Justice Kennedy, Mrs Justice Smith and Mr Justice Timothy Walker) 31 October 1997

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court found that contempt of court by Associated Newspapers Ltd, in publishing an article entitled "Alcatraz-on-Thames" in the *Evening Standard* on 22 January 1997, which led to the permanent stay of proceedings against six defendants accused of escaping from Whitemoor Prison in 1994, had been proved. A fine of £40,000 was imposed.

The article in question concerned Belmarsh Prison, and included photographs of three named inmates, with a caption describing them as IRA terrorists and giving details of the serious crimes for which they were in prison. At the time of article's publication the three men were on trial with three others at Woolwich Crown Court for offences including breaking prison. A first trial had been abandoned after the publication in national newspapers (not including the *Evening Standard*) of information about the offences for which the men had been in Whitemoor, and of the links of five of them with the IRA.

At the time of discharging the first jury, the trial judge had made an order under section 4 of the Contempt of Court Act 1981, prohibiting publication of details of the previous convictions of the defendants and any indication of IRA connections. He had directed that a copy of the order be sent to the editors of the national press and to the BBC and ITN. On the second day of the second trial he had reminded representatives of the media in court of the history of the case and had urged them to confine their coverage to what was said in court in the presence of the jury. The *Evening Standard*'s article appeared a week later, and the following day the proceedings were stayed permanently.

David Pannick QC and Ian Burnett (Treasury Solicitor) for the Attorney General; Jonathan Caplan QC and William McCormick (Reynolds Porter Chamberlain) for the newspaper.

Lord Justice Kennedy said that the respondents had never intended to interfere in any way with the trial. A journalist employed by the *Evening Standard* had been commissioned to write an article on Belmarsh Prison. Neither the journalist nor any of the other staff involved appeared to have been aware of the trial which was in progress at Woolwich Crown Court. In the circumstances, and particularly having regard to the history of the case and the efforts made by the trial judge to alert the media, what had happened was plainly negligent. There was, however, no evidence of anyone having been contumacious.

The sole issue in the present case was whether the article had created a substantial risk that the proceedings against the six men would be seriously prejudiced. The case was unusual in that the jury knew from the outset that all six defendants had been convicted of serious crimes, and that it had been considered necessary to house them in a special secure unit.

Some jurors might well have deduced that some at least of the defendants were IRA terrorists, and might also have recalled some of the pre-trial publicity. That was all information the jurors might reasonably be expected to put aside when they came to deliberate about the case, but the article in question was something different. No juror who had seen it could have failed to be gripped by it. It was an article which gave the newspaper-reading juror specific information about three of the six defendants in his current case.

At the trial, much was bound to turn on the credibility of the witnesses, and the publication of the article, occurring when it did, was likely to have loaded the scales in favour of the prosecution in a way which no judicial warning could redress.

– Kate O'Hanlon, Barrister

Promises, promises ... but Labour had better keep the big ones

EDITOR: ANDREW MARR
DEPUTY EDITOR: COLIN HUGHES.
ADDRESS: 1 CANADA SQUARE,
CANARY WHARF,
LONDON E14 5DL
TELEPHONE: 0171 293 2000
OR 0171 345 2000
FAX: 0171 293 2435
OR 0171-345 2435

Labour's *manifesto* was clear. "Smoking is the greatest single cause of preventable illness and premature death in the UK. We will therefore ban tobacco advertising." Up goes that most familiar political cry: U-turn!

The Government's decision to allow cigarette advertising to continue in Formula One motor racing is a significant moment. It is Labour's first broken manifesto promise, and that matters more than it might because of the fuss that Tony Blair made about the Conservatives breaking their pledges, and how Labour's manifesto was a "bond of trust", his own "contract with the people".

This has come into conflict with another part of the creed: the determination not to promise what cannot be delivered. It turns out that not all the wrinkles and rough places encountered in Government had been foreseen in opposition.

Not only was the ban on tobacco advertising wrong in principle, as a form of gesture politics, and an illiberal one at that, it was foolish to have been so absolute about it. Journalists pointed out to Frank Dobson that Formula One races might simply move out of the European Union and yet be broadcast within it, but he stuck to the manifesto line. He wasn't to know that the Prime Minister was busy sawing a circle around his feet, but when he found out, the least he could have done was go on the *Today programme himself* rather than sending a junior minister to sound silly on his behalf. The one thing that Tessa Jowell was obviously not authorised to say was what she should have said: we made a mistake – a total ban is not as straightforward as we thought.

So far, so symbolic and so (relatively) unimportant. What matters is whether the recent spate of claims of broken pledges betokens anything more serious about the nature and style of this government.

As a service to our readers, then, here are those U-turns in full: keeping some tobacco advertising; banning gays in the military; and taxing pension funds. It is a short list, and two of them were not ruled out in the manifesto. What is more, there was nothing on the ban on homosexuals in the armed forces in the manifesto, and Jack Straw puzzled those liberals who thought Labour had "got its betrayal in early" by suddenly declaring in March this year: "The ban is unfair and it will go." His present stance, of wasting taxpayers' money to fight doomed cases defending the ban in European courts, is equally baffling.

Nor was Gordon Brown's £5bn-a-year tax on pensions funds ruled out by the *manifesto*, which promised to "review" the corporate tax regime to see how it could "promote greater long-term investment". But it flies in the face of Mr Blair's repeated assurance during the election *campaign that he had "no plans at all"* to raise taxes. He is saved (a) by the complexity and remoteness of the change, and (b) by the fact that it is entirely sensible.

The Government has been accused of other U-turns which cannot be added to the charge sheet. Something deep and strange is going on beneath the Private Member's Bill to ban fox-hunting, but Mr Blair never did promise Government time in the House of Commons. Nor should he have done, although he has sent enough contradictory signals to confuse a whole pack of hounds.

And it was this newspaper which broke the news that Labour had reneged on a pledge to stop the testing of cosmetics on animals. But, as we report today, the Government has now been shamed into securing a voluntary agreement to end such tests.

Other minor U-turns have been alleged by pressure groups seizing on the tone of opposition rhetoric rather than the letter of Labour promises. Harriet Harman criticised Tory meanness, but did not promise to take the wind-chill *factor into* account in cold weather payments for pensioners. Jack Straw doesn't like child jails or private prisons, but he never said he wouldn't have more of them. Frank Dobson attacked secret Tory plans to bring in water meters, but he never said Labour didn't harbour them too.

What is much more important than any of Labour's broken promises or disappointed expectations to date is whether or not the Government delivers on the central planks of its manifesto. Mr Blair's five key pledges have all collided with reality. The Government won't even start trying to cut infant class sizes until next year, and it is still not obvious how it will be done. The same applies to faster sentencing for young offenders. But the really tough one is going to be cutting NHS waiting lists; since the election, they have risen steeply.

Let the boy racers decorate their dangerous toys with cigarette ads. If Mr Dobson can get waiting lists down, Labour's bond of trust with the people might survive.

Post letters to Letters to the Editor
and include a daytime telephone number.
Fax 0171 293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk
E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address.
Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

LETTERS

Fox-hunting

Sir: Over and above the issue of hunting with hounds, I find myself astonished today by the attitude of the Government towards a Private Member's Bill. Are these things mere courtesy moments to allow backbenchers to play-act at legislating, or do they exist in their own right as ways to extend in a democratic way the opportunities to create legislation? I'm confused.

If it is possible for the Government to say, "put that away now chaps, there's good boys" as seems to be the case where Michael Foster's Bill is concerned, then why do we have Private Members' Bills at all? To add insult to injury, this Bill is supported by 70 to 80 per cent of the general population, many of whom voted for Labour because of its pre-election stance regarding various animal welfare issues.

By what right does the Government so arrogantly deny extra parliamentary time to turn into law what most of the country wants, and which the opinion poll to be conducted on the floor of the House of Commons on 28 November will endorse?

VALERIE PAYNTER
Hove, East Sussex

Sir: Most people, so you report, want to see hunting banned. Probably they think it cruel. Most people, however, are unconcerned about the unnecessary cruelty involved in the raising of the eggs, bacon, chicken drumsticks and suchlike which they consume in large quantities. Ergo, really all of us are colossal hypocrites.

Like, say, trainspotting, fox hunting may have a corrupting tendency. Inevitably it is a fairly exclusive sport, which fosters suspicion. However, almost all the literature on sale in my local petrol station is undoubtedly of a corrupting nature. The difference is that such rubbish is the daily mental intake of the majority of people, and therefore all right.

People must have the right to read what they want. Equally I suggest people should have the right to indulge in the rural occupation of their choice, be it hunting, shooting, fishing, golf, horse-racing or pumpkin raising; so long as the essence of the pleasure does not lie in deliberate cruelty (as in badger-baiting or boxing) and reasonable property rights are not infringed.

Am I alone in deploring the modern tendency of wanting to ban anything one dislikes?

HENRY BEST
Somerset

Sir: The articles in *The Independent* of Tuesday 4 November regarding the attempt to pass a Bill to ban fox-hunting shows the lack of democracy that exists in Britain today. Hopefully the Prime Minister does have important legislation to pass in this five-year parliament, but the fact that a few, unelected members of the House of Lords, can prevent a Bill being passed which is supported by the majority of the Commons, and the majority of the electorate, shows how undemocratic our current Parliament is. It is time to change our anachronistic upper chamber.

NEIL MURRAY
Gravesend, Kent.

Louise Woodward

Sir: Why does no one seem to have considered that Matthew Eappen could have been unwittingly harmed by his brother? Two minutes can be too long to leave a baby alone with a jealous two-year-old sibling – let alone two hours.

NICKY WESSON
Middlesex

Sir: I am as stunned as many others at the conviction of Louise Woodward for second degree murder for killing baby Matthew Eappen.

Many years ago I was a juror on a Crown Court case, and was appointed jury foreman. During our deliberations, I advised my fellow jurors that if there was any doubt we could only justly and equitably return a verdict of not guilty. A not guilty verdict was given.

Sunil and Debbie Eappen were very naïve young professionals who expected higher standards from the au pair than they themselves were able or willing to provide.

Louise Woodward was young and inexperienced, being paid a paltry sum of money by a couple who could surely have paid much more, and yet she was expected to show the maturity and temperament of a Mary Poppins.

As a juror, I would have needed to be convinced beyond all shadow of doubt that the Eappens were no way responsible if only in a contributory way for the death of their child.

I shall pray and hope that true American justice will prevail and that this unfortunate verdict can be overturned or at the very least be reduced to a verdict which is humane and equitable.

COLIN F DUNCAN
Coulsdon, Surrey.

Sir: Now that Princess Diana is no longer available to the tabloid press in this country as a touchy-feely icon of largely hysterical emotions, are we to expect a series of scenarios like that constructed around Louise Woodward, in which anyone perceived in the newsroom to be a candidate for hapless victim is picked out for special treatment, regardless of any facts which might spoil the story?

The new style of journalism suggests that rational thought be suspended while we all concentrate on the irrational question of whether Louise Woodward is a better dresser than Mrs Eappen; or, preposterously, as on the BBC at lunch time today, that she is just poorer (and thus bound to lose).

When all the rhetoric is stripped away we are left with the uncomfortable fact that Woodward was found with a dead baby supposedly in her tender care. If, as seems likely, she is finally convicted of manslaughter, she should serve her term and her supporters should shut up. Can any of us imagine the furore the British press would make if this had been an American girl found guilty of the same crime here, had the same attempt been made to rubbish our justice system? If American due process has a fault, it is that it is too open, lending itself to the danger, as here, that we are all invited to vote, not on the facts, but on the late-20th-century equivalent of thumbs up or thumbs down from our modern Nero (or should that be Caligula?), the television, radio and newspaper pundit.

TIM MADGE
Chesham, Buckinghamshire

Music cassettes

Sir: Your article "Stop button for music cassettes" (3 November) shows the danger of perpetuating misleading and inaccurate information.

EMI are keen to retain the audio-cassette until a high-quality digital alternative has been established. All our newly recorded mainstream rock and pop releases are made available on cassette, as are many catalogue albums. Specifically, the Beatles' *White Album* is still available on cassette, as are at least two recordings of Vivaldi's *Four Seasons*.

The story in fact refers to record retailers who of course make their own decisions on the stock range they offer their customers. Music lovers should not be content with what they see on the dealers' shelves. They should ask – and they may be surprised by the answer.

DAVID HUGHES,
EMI Records Group UK & Ireland, London W6

Penelope Leach

Sir: Dinah Hall has missed the major factor regarding the disenchantment many mothers feel at Penelope Leach's wisdom. I finally threw away my copy of her book after several years when I realised my faith in her was misplaced. Under her regime the dreamlike state of dressing-gowns, milky stains and sticky fingers is elevated to a holy state of purity. Selfish desires are not permissible – such as having a bath alone, wearing dangly earrings or making a phone call. No wonder women have fled back to work in droves if we aspire to this image of perfect motherhood.

Unless mothers of small children retain a reasonable amount of self-esteem, the "Leach" philosophy will continue to produce feelings of inadequacy or resentment. An increasingly frequent solution to this has been to leave day-to-day care to someone else and return to work to regain self-respect – not a result Penelope Leach would perhaps have hoped for.

APRIL BECKERLEG
Grendon Underwood, Bucks.

Opera

Sir: Chris Smith, Secretary of State for Culture, is continuing to get it wrong about opera in London. Having decided that the Royal Opera should be the "People's Opera", he is now proposing that it should share its renovated building with English National Opera. If any company should be a "People's Opera" it is ENO, where opera is performed in English and by mainly home-grown talent.

If the Covent Garden building is to be shared by the two opera companies, the building works currently under way will surely need to be suspended to allow a thorough and far-reaching review, which raises the spectre of another British Library fiasco.

But fundamentally these ideas are flawed, for while it is just about justifiable for the beautiful Covent Garden auditorium to be a venue for the display of the best international musicians, no one can pretend that the auditorium can provide uniform (and democratic) sight-lines and comfort throughout for all modes of opera performance. We would do far better to follow the example of the Metropolitan Opera in New York and build a completely new building on a new site where modern standards can be achieved.

V HUGH R WAINE
London SE4

'A Dance to the Music of Time' – the abridged version

MILES KINGTON

Many people who couldn't face reading the whole of Anthony Powell's novel sequence *A Dance to the Music of Time* were looking forward to watching Hugh Whitemore's abridgement for television, but I gather that a lot of them found that even that was a bit too long and complicated. So for them, and for anyone else who has missed the whole thing, I bring you today a condensation of the complete Hugh Whitemore/ Anthony Powell *A Dance to the Music of Time* in one newspaper column!

Exterior shot, smart London street. Nicholas Jenkins lets himself into front door. Interior shot of Jean, his girlfriend, with no clothes on.
Nick: You've got no clothes on.
Jean: Haven't I? Gosh, nor I have.
Nick: Why haven't you got any clothes on?
Jean: Because it will make the viewers think that there is lots more sex and nudity to follow.
Nick: But there isn't?
Jean: No. Not a sausage.
Nick: Phew. Thank goodness for that. Now, get your clothes on before your husband, Bob Duporte, comes home.
Jean: Why did you mention the name of my husband? I know perfectly well what he is called.
Nick: I know, but if we don't keep mentioning names, and whether we are married or not, the viewers will forget who everyone is. By the way, were you at school with a chap called Widmerpool?
Jean: No. Were you?
Nick: Yes, I was, as a matter of fact. Incidentally, I saw my Uncle Giles today.

Cut to seedy hotel on Brighton seafront, interior, lots of period detail. Enter seedy uncle.
Uncle Giles: Hello, Nick, fancy bumping into you here. Will you look after these papers for me?
Nick: Why, what are they, Uncle Giles?
Uncle Giles: My scripts for the next five episodes. Can't make head or tail of what's happening without them. Or with them, come to that.
Nick: Pleasure, Uncle Giles.

Enter Bob Duporte.
Bob: Hello, Nick and Uncle Giles. Fancy bumping into you again after all these years.
Nick: Actually, I think this is the first time we've met.
Bob: *Consulting script* You may be right.
Nick: I'm married now, you know.

Cut to country station at night. Steam train arrives.
Close-up of porter.
Porter: Widmerpool! Widmerpool!

Carriage door opens and Widmerpool descends balefully, accompanied by Miranda Richardson playing herself.
Widmerpool bumps into another passenger.

Passenger: Why don't you watch where you're flaming going?
Widmerpool: Because my name is Widmerpool and I run this railway, or at least I end up head of almost anything you care to mention, so I probably run this railway as well. And who are you, you nasty little working class oik?
Odo: My name is Odo Stevens, and I write short stories.
Widmerpool: Why on earth would a working class chap want to write short stories?
Odo: I'm not sure, but I think that Anthony Powell is totally incapable of portraying anyone proletarian unless he is like himself, ie a writer with a curious name?
Odo: It is if you insist on pretending it's pronounced Pole.
Enter Nicholas Jenkins, holding kit bag.

Nick: Widmerpool...!
Widmerpool: Hello, Nick. I'm married now, you know, but I haven't any children.
Nick: Have you heard about the war?
Widmerpool: Heard about it? My dear boy, I am a major shareholder in it!
Porter: Come along, gents, please, come along! Have you no homes to go to?
Nick: *Peering closely at Porter* My God, it's Charlie! Charlie Stringham! But you're ... drunk! And we were at school together! I'm married now, you know.
Charlie: I must be even drunker than I thought. You look nothing like the Nick Jenkins I once knew.
Nick: Yes, but that's because I am being played by a different actor now.
Charlie: Well, it's lovely to see you again, Nick, whoever you are.

Enter Bob Duporte.
Bob: Anyone here seen Quiggins?

I'm not sure if this quite wraps up everything. Maybe we'll have another episode tomorrow. And there again, maybe not.

هكذا من الاصل

هكذا من الاصل

Saddle up, Tony, and join the Hezza cavalry

POLLY TOYNBEE

WINNING THE VOTE FOR EMU

The EMU battle lines are drawn. The territory to be conquered in just four years is the support of the people. Now we know where everyone stands, the public campaign must begin, but so far there have been only muffled mumblings from the Government.

The voters stand at two-to-one against EMU. Euro-scepticism is deep-dyed in the Union flag, soaked in it through the past 18 years of sceptic government, saturated by a passionately anti-European press. Sir James Goldsmith's deadly legacy of £20m spent on filling the air with Euro-phobia had its inevitable effect, with that powerful £3m video through every door in the country.

Yet on the face of things, the EMU campaign should be a straight re-run of 1975, when exactly the same proportion of voters started out against joining, but swung two-to-one in favour. All the big beasts are on one side: the Government, Ashdown, Clarke, Heseltine *et al*. The CBI and the TUC speak with one voice. A few brave captains of industry are starting to jump up on to the parapet, waving the EMU troops on. The wise and far-sighted are beginning to present a formidable array. How could they lose?

Who's afraid of William Hague, Peter Lilley, Tony Benn, Sir Stanley Kalms or Norman Tebbit? There should be no contest here. But this raggle-taggle army has a nuclear armoury of weapons, whose exact capability we do not know, but rightly fear.

The sceptic weapon is Rupert Murdoch, who alone controls 41 per cent of newspaper readership, with Conrad Black and *The Daily Mail* standing shoulder-to-shoulder with him, all rabidly anti-European. Can the good guys win against their might?

The muted, strangled noises on Europe emanating from Downing Street so far spring from fear of the damage that Murdoch can inflict. But in the end the Labour leaders will have to stand up to him on this, because they have no choice.

So far, the Prime Minister has backed away from a showdown, because he thinks he can lasso Murdoch and bring him in gently on the end of a rope. He reasons that if public opinion swings behind the single currency, if the clouds of Europhobia are swept back and almost every sensible big player in the nation thinks we must join, and join soon, Murdoch wouldn't want his newspapers left stranded out among the mavericks. He always trims his views to suit his business interests in the end.

But the question is, can public opinion be changed unless the Prime Minister starts to use his government's huge public popularity to win the argument? Can we ever reach the stage where Murdoch's papers are forced to change their line unless Blair comes out fighting first? Until now, Labour has never wanted to test the state of our democracy, to see whether the government or *The Sun* rules.

But the time is short and the campaign to win public opinion has no real leader until the Prime Minister gets on his horse to do battle with the petty Poujadists, little Englanders and cynical manipulators of gut xenophobia. So far, only timid noises come from his camp.

Too late and too grudging, Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, has at least made joining EMU official policy, liberating the Labour Euro-enthusiasts to campaign vigorously. But the message that emerged from Tuesday's Lib-Lab constitutional committee promising to advocate the merits of Europe was a tepid rallying-cry: "The Government and the Liberal Democrats have a shared interest in making Britain less Euro-sceptical". Less Euro-sceptical? That is hardly the stuff to set hearts and minds afire. We wait for a strong lead, but Downing Street says the Prime Minister has no plans to make a speech on Europe at present.

No; so far, the Conservative rebels have the beau role in all this. The Clarke/Hezza/Curry cavalry is charging in from the wing, sabres flashing. They look brave and honourable championing the national interest above party and popularity. The more gallant they seem, the more hesitant and pusillanimous Downing Street appears. Tony Blair hasn't saddled up, and his posse are anxiously looking at their watches. He is letting others fight his battle, hoping they win it for him.

The European Movement, the nascent pro-EMU referendum campaign, is about to announce a new heavyweight team of leaders from each party. Now they need support, a mass membership, local groups and most of all money – a lot of it – to undo the years of damage.

It won't be enough to rely on frightening voters with the dangers of being left out of the single currency. Nor will it be enough to sell the immediate advantages – lower interest rates, lower mortgages, exchange rate stability, and the like. The campaign needs to generate a new warmth for the European idea itself. It must mark the end, once and for all, to Britain's recalcitrant, bad-tempered, sourly obstructive behaviour in Europe, shifting the attitude of the people as well as the habits of our politicians. This must be Armageddon for Europhobia.

We all rightly criticise the EU as presently constructed, for its democratic deficit, the CAP and myriad other faults. But none of that should stop a wholehearted pro-European campaign, for none of that can be influenced one jot by us unless we are at the heart of Europe. "A fresh start in Europe, with the credibility to achieve reform," promised Labour's manifesto. Just so. "We will give Britain leadership in Europe," it said. But when, if not now?

It is easy to understand the unease with which the Government risks gambling its huge popularity on such an unpopular cause. But there is no choice. The next election will be fought on this issue, willy-nilly. Dragging their heels will not make it go away, so they had better come out of their tents now with all the panache of the Tory rebels. With a bit of bravery, they can see off the enemy – and at the same time show Rupert Murdoch that the battle can be won without him and despite him, because in the end Tony Blair rules, OK, and it will be Tony Blair Wot Won It.

'Chicago' is ... an uncomfortable night out for a newspaper editor

JOHN WALSH

At a preview showing of *Chicago*, the deeply wonderful new musical in the Strand, I sat next to Max Hastings. The 9ft-tall editor of the *Evening Standard* was the tallest lupin among a whole garden of variegated celebrities (Sir Cliff Richard, Anthony Samson, Ned Sherrin) at this rollicking, son-of-*Cabaret* extravaganza.

It was a very hot ticket and a very cool evening. The upstairs crush bar was full of groovily dressed-down young men swigging Czech beer and smoking Black Russians. The audience was a-buzz with expectation before the show, and alive with whistles and cries of "Yeah-hhrr!" after each sassy number. A lady of mature years couldn't take the strain and fainted at the end of Row G while Ruthie Henshall was singing "Roxie" ...

Through it all, Mr Hastings sat with his raincoat on his lap and on his face the expression of an Easter Island statue in the rain. Evidently he is not a fan of the Broadway musical, or the convention that you are allowed to clap before the final curtain. But just as he was (I gathered) resigning himself to terminal ennui, things on stage took a more interesting turn.

The book of the musical offers an amoral look at the celebrity value of murder, adultery and *crime passionel*, and how you can be sure of getting a light sentence (or none at all) if you pay the bent attorney, screw the cop and do whatever the dykish matron of the remand centre requires of you. Along the way you learn to adjust your story for the newspapers. So – at one point in the first act, Billy Flynn the crooked attorney is explaining to Roxie Hart what she should tell the Press when they arrive. "Oh, and don't worry", says Billy, "because the woman from the *Evening Star* will be here". Beside me, I could swear, Mr Hastings stiffened perceptibly. You'll be fine with her, explains Billy, she's called Mary Sunshine and she believes everything she's told.

I stole a sidelong glance. The editor of the as-it-were *Evening Star*'s nostrils were dilated. Was he running through a swift mental Rolladex to see which of his charges could possibly fit this description? Then on came came Mary Sunshine, a huge lady, possibly *en travestie* in a long sweeping coat, to sing "A Little Bit of Good (In Everyone)". It was, I think, the only moment in any Broadway musical in which a character is required to embody journalistic gullibility. And the bitch had to work for the *Evening St*... Mr Hastings shifted in his seat and dredged his ear with an exasperated forefinger.

Sorry to return to the hoary subject of Booker Prize Night a whole three weeks after the event, but the story of the Indian Car Fight is too good to miss. Picture the scene. Puppyish, bespectacled former publisher David Godwin, a literary agent of few years' experience but a talent-spotter of quality, has two of his charges, Arundhati (*God of Small Things*) Roy and Jim (*Quarantine*) Crace, on the Booker shortlist, and both tipped by Ladbrokes and William Hill to win. The occasion obviously warrants a special gesture. So he hires a white stretch limousine for the evening. If either Roy or Crace gets the prize, they will be whisked off to the Winner's Party with Godwin in this transport of ecstacy, handily furnished with flowers, champagne, TV and, for all I know, en suite microwave and shower unit.

In due course, Arundhati Roy is announced as the winner. Loud buzzahs at David Godwin's table. As Ms Roy is interviewed by the nation's press, Godwin checks that the limo has arrived outside the Guildhall's main entrance. But there is a problem. I can't park there, reports the driver, there is a bloody great big black motor outside the main entrance already. Appalled, Godwin tries to get it moved. The driver won't budge. Whose car is it? The driver won't give the name; he'll only say it's a mysterious Top Celebrity, who's attending the dinner with an entourage ...

Godwin puts two and two together and stamps off into the Guildhall, where he confronts the Top Celebrity, waiting for his date to emerge from the Ladies. "Could you please," he demands, "remove your car from the front door?" Why? asks Salman Rushdie (for it is he). "Because Arundhati Roy's limo is supposed to be parked there," Godwin explains. Rushdie is unimpressed. An argument ensues as to whose car is bigger, whose reputation is more starry, whose credentials as Top Literary Indian Booker Laureate are more convincing.

Some versions of the story end with Godwin and Rushdie exchanging blows on the Guildhall forecourt. Others suggest that Godwin sent a note of apology to Rushdie the next morning. Others bring up Mr Rushdie's lack of enthusiasm for Ms Roy's prize-winning prose style, as expressed to friends over recent weeks. Still others merely ponder the complicated symbolism that attaches to big cars and their temporary owners ...

Now that the Government has decided not to back Mike Foster's anti-hunting Bill, I notice that one or two non-PC, pro-hunting articles are emerging from the undergrowth. This one, for instance:

"Hunting ... is the first activity a young man just out of childhood should take up, before turning to other subjects which will enhance his reputation ... . A strong desire to hunt can lead to a great deal of profit. It makes for physical fitness, improves the sight and hearing, slows down the process of growing old and, above all, is good training for warfare".

Who can it be? Nicholas Soames? Camilla Parker Bowles? Rory Knight-Bruce?

The essay, entitled "On Hunting", continues with a lot of advice about the training of hounds (the author warns against "dull-eyed, squinting, graceless, stiff-jointed, weak, thin-coated, long-limbed, badly-proportioned and listless" mutts, not to mention those with "unsound feet"); the way you should address them ("Well done, dogs", "Come back here, dogs"); and the best names by which to call them ("Spirit, Pluck, Handle, Spike, Lance, Raider, Guard, Picket, Trooper, Sword, Killer, Blaze, Butch, Battler, Ringwood ..."). It also offers advice about how to stalk hares, deer and wild boar in the wild, the clothes you should wear and the equipment you should buy.

So who is this unreconstructed blood-sports fan, this spokesman for the discredited Country tendency? Here's a final clue. After releasing your hounds, Mr Know-All suggests, you must "pray to Apollo and Artemis the Huntress, pledging a share of the catch to each ...". For this is not some modern-day John Peel – It's Xenophon of Athens, right-wing historian and biographer and enthusiast for the chase, writing in 370BC or so, newly translated by Robin Waterfield for Penguin Classics, and demonstrating that hunting is even more old-fashioned (or more respectably pedigreed, depending on your point of view) than you thought. Shame the Greeks didn't have a word for "Yoicks!"

No, Algeria, it's not an 'internal affair'

ROBERT FISK

THE CASE FOR INTERVENTION

"Accomplice" is the word I hear most in Algeria. Accomplice – as in collaborator, enemy of the people, friend of "terrorists". Ask why the army has not intervened to protect the villagers from the throat-slashers, and those Algerians loyal to their government reply in identical words. "The villagers voted for the FIS – they used to feed the terrorists in their homes." So they deserved it. Just because they voted for the now-banned Islamic Salvation Front. Ask about the thousands of young men and women "disappeared" by the security authorities and I hear the same word. They are "accomplices". In his testy letter to *The Independent* last week, the Algerian ambassador to London made a similar remark. "The 'disappeared' have in fact, in most cases, joined the terrorist gangs," he wrote.

But they are Algerians. The villagers, the "disappeared", the FIS, the armed gangs, the guilty and the innocent. They are Algerians. They are part of the same great nation which fought with such endurance and bravery against French rule. The young "disappeared" women whose photographs were published on the front page of *The Independent* last week are – or were – Algerians. The women who have been gang-raped in police stations are Algerians. So were the women and children slaughtered so viciously by the "Islamist" murderers of the Islamic Armed Group (GIA). And the terrifying thing about listening to the word "accomplice" is that those who use it are destroying the very unity of the country which they wish to maintain.

I put this point to an Algerian official the other day, a decent, highly educated man, a loyal servant to the military-backed government. Yes, he too lamented the use of the word "accomplice". He saw the danger which its use represented to the unity of Algeria. But when I asked him about police torture, he disagreed. "Look Robert, you must realise that there are people who have lost wives and children. They are angry. And if you find one man and you think he knows of plans for a massacre in a village, well, do you not think it may be necessary to be 'against' him – if you can save all those lives?" For 'against', read 'torture'.

But that, I said, is Israel's excuse – indeed, the very same appalling reason given by the Israeli government to endorse Israel's "shaking" torture of Palestinians: that such methods may be necessary to save lives (albeit that a thousand Palestinians have now been "shaken" for very few lives saved). My Algerian friend had no reply to this. He merely pointed out that we Europeans had no right to lecture Algeria about morality. And, up to a point, I had some sympathy with him.

Take France. The Jospin government isn't above lecturing Algeria on human rights. But in the 1954-62 war, the French massacred tens of thousands of Algerian civilians. In 1961, the Paris police force – under the command of Maurice Papon – massacred hundreds of Algerians by trussing them up and throwing them into the Seine. Of course, the Algerians were fighting and killing Frenchmen in their battle for independence. But one reason the French loathed – and I suspect in many cases still hate – the Algerians is because Algerians are not a backward, ignorant people. They are intelligent – far too intelligent for most Frenchmen to tolerate. The Francophone veterans who fought the French read Camus and Molière. Tragic though their circumstances have since become, Algerians are a quick-witted, bright, discerning people. They deserve better than to be lectured to by us.

But. And it's a big but. It is time that the Algerian government stopped shrugging off foreign intervention as "interference in the internal affairs of Algeria". It is time that human rights groups were welcomed into Algeria. It is time for Algerian ministers to open their arms to the UN when its representatives offer help – not snub them, as the Algerians did to Mary Robinson. The revelations by lawyers and former security force personnel in *The Independent* last week that thousands of Algerians have been "disappeared" and that torture is now routine in police stations cry out for an international response. Even General Mohamed Lamari, the armed forces chief of staff, admitted last week that "some excesses may have taken place on the part of individuals acting alone" – far short of the reality, perhaps, but a remarkable statement, all the same.

I can understand the anger of Algerians faced with a shrill and moralistic audience of Europeans and Americans. I can understand the anger of the Algerian ambassador to London, even if some of his statements were factually incorrect. To say that *The Independent* did not deem "victims of terrorism" in Algeria worthy of our front page – when page 1 of our edition of 22 October was taken over entirely by the story of massacre survivors – was, to put it mildly, being economic with the truth.

But Algeria needs our help. The *eradicateurs* in the government have signally failed to eradicate anything; while President Zeroual talks of "residual terrorism". General Lamari is warning of a long struggle ahead. And to what end? When an FIS leader appeals to the UN, he is slapped back under house arrest. When Europeans convened a peace conference in Italy – in which the FIS and opposition groups appealed for dialogue – it was dismissed out of hand by the Algerian government.

Soon – very soon – the West is going to have to link the purchase of Algerian oil and gas exports to human rights improvements. The sale of military equipment – Italian pistols, American flak jackets and tear gas, German police vehicles – will have to be granted only after independent investigation of human rights. In Algiers, we are now told that the Denel company of South Africa plans to sell military helicopters to Algeria for use by the army in anti-guerrilla operations. Does President Mandela approve of this?

In the Middle East, the Europeans were asked to fund the now-dead Israeli-Palestinian "peace process" but ordered by the United States to keep their mouths shut. In Algeria, we are asked to provide the arms and buy the gas – and are again expected to keep our mouths shut. But why should we? One of the great nations of the world – the 18th oil exporter, the 7th gas exporter – is suffering 25 per cent unemployment and 47 per cent illiteracy, and is tearing itself apart on the edge of Europe. Its unity is in danger. And it is no longer an "internal affair".

Arthritis
Respects Nobody.

My body, Your body, John's body

John is one of over 11 million men, women and children in Britain today who know just how painful arthritis and rheumatism can be.

The Arthritis and Rheumatism Council is the only major UK charity financing medical research into all aspects of arthritis and rheumatic disease in Britain today.

We rely on donations to fund our many research projects. Can you help us today?

Please send me: Your FREE Legacy Information Pack ☐
Name: .....
Address: .....
..... Postcode: .....
I enclose: ☐ £31 ☐ £47 ☐ £19 my gift of £ .....
Please send an Information Pack ☐
DTW/62/IND/06/11/97

To: The Arthritis & Rheumatism Council, FREEPOST, Chesterfield, Derbyshire S41 7BR.

Arthritis & Rheumatism Council for Research - finding the cure
A Registered Charity. Patron: HRH The Duchess of Kent.

YOUNG OR OLD - THE PAIN'S THE SAME

BUSINESS & CITY EDITOR, JEREMY WARNER
NEWS DESK: 0171-293 2636 FAX: 0171-293 2098 E-MAIL: INDYBUSINESS@ INDEPENDENT.CO.UK
FINANCIAL JOURNAL OF THE YEAR

Tanks and car group Vickers 'facing hostile break-up bid'

Vickers, the Challenger tanks to Rolls-Royce cars group, was last night facing the prospect of an audacious reverse takeover bid by Mayflower, an engineering business less than two-thirds its size. *Chris Godsmark and Michael Harrison* examine a move which could scupper Vickers' plans to sell off its luxury car business.

Vickers' management, led by Sir Colin Chandler, chairman, first heard rumours of Mayflower's intentions on Monday and asked the High Wycombe-based company to issue a denial. In a Stock Exchange statement last night Vickers said Mayflower was planning a "hostile" bid for the company.

It continued: "Mayflower has not given Vickers appropriate assurances that this information is without foundation. As a result, Vickers is announcing the existence of these plans both in the interests of its shareholders and in order to avoid the development of a false market in its shares."

A short while later Mayflower, which has designed a new body panel making plant for Rolls-Royce, confirmed that it was examining a possible approach. The company said: "Mayflower already has a close relationships with Rolls-Royce. In the light of the above, the board of Mayflower is considering all its options, which may, or may not, include an offer for Vickers."

Shares in Vickers jumped 20.5p on the news, to 248p, adding £70m to its stock market value, which rose to £840m. At the same time Mayflower's share price dropped 15p to 189.5p, valuing the company at £478m.

Vickers was last night preparing a possible bid defence, hinting that Mayflower was unlikely to be able to finance a takeover. The company said it was "not clear" whether Mayflower, which has gearing of some 60 per cent, would be in a position to make an offer. The statement went on: "But should it do so, it would be considered on its merits."

A Mayflower spokesman refused to comment further, though it was thought the company, founded and led by John Simpson, chief executive, would decide by the end of this week whether to launch a full-scale bid. The group, which is being advised by BZW, is apparently eyeing an offer including some Mayflower shares, though the bulk would be in cash.

If it makes an offer, Mayflower would cancel the sale of Rolls-Royce, announced less than a fortnight ago, and instead sell-off Vickers' defence business, the UK's largest armoured vehicle maker, which produces the Challenger tank. Mayflower has recently invested £28m in its car panel business, which makes entire bodies for Rover, for its MGF sports car and for the Aston Martin DB7. It also supplies Land Rover Discovery body panels.

It would be a U-turn for Vickers, which has been in talks to buy GKN's armoured vehicle business for a price thought to be between £50m and £100m. Vickers has argued that it cannot afford to invest in a new, smaller Rolls-Royce, having already paid £200m for the replacement for its existing car, due early next year.

Should the bid go ahead and succeed, one potential buyer of the Vickers tank business would be Alvis, the UK armoured vehicle manufacturer best known for the Scorpion and Stormer armoured tracked vehicles. Nicholas Prest, the Alvis chairman, said last night, however, that it had not been involved in any way with Mayflower or consulted on any break-up plans Mayflower had for Vickers should a bid materialise.

Nevertheless, it is thought that Alvis would be bound to register an interest if the tanks division did come on the market. Defence industry observers were sceptical, though, about whether the bid would succeed, pointing to the premium Mayflower would have to pay.

Alvis paid £80m in September for the Swedish armoured vehicle group Hagglunds in a deal which catapults it on to a par with both Vickers and GKN, maker of the Warrior armoured track vehicle, in terms of military production.

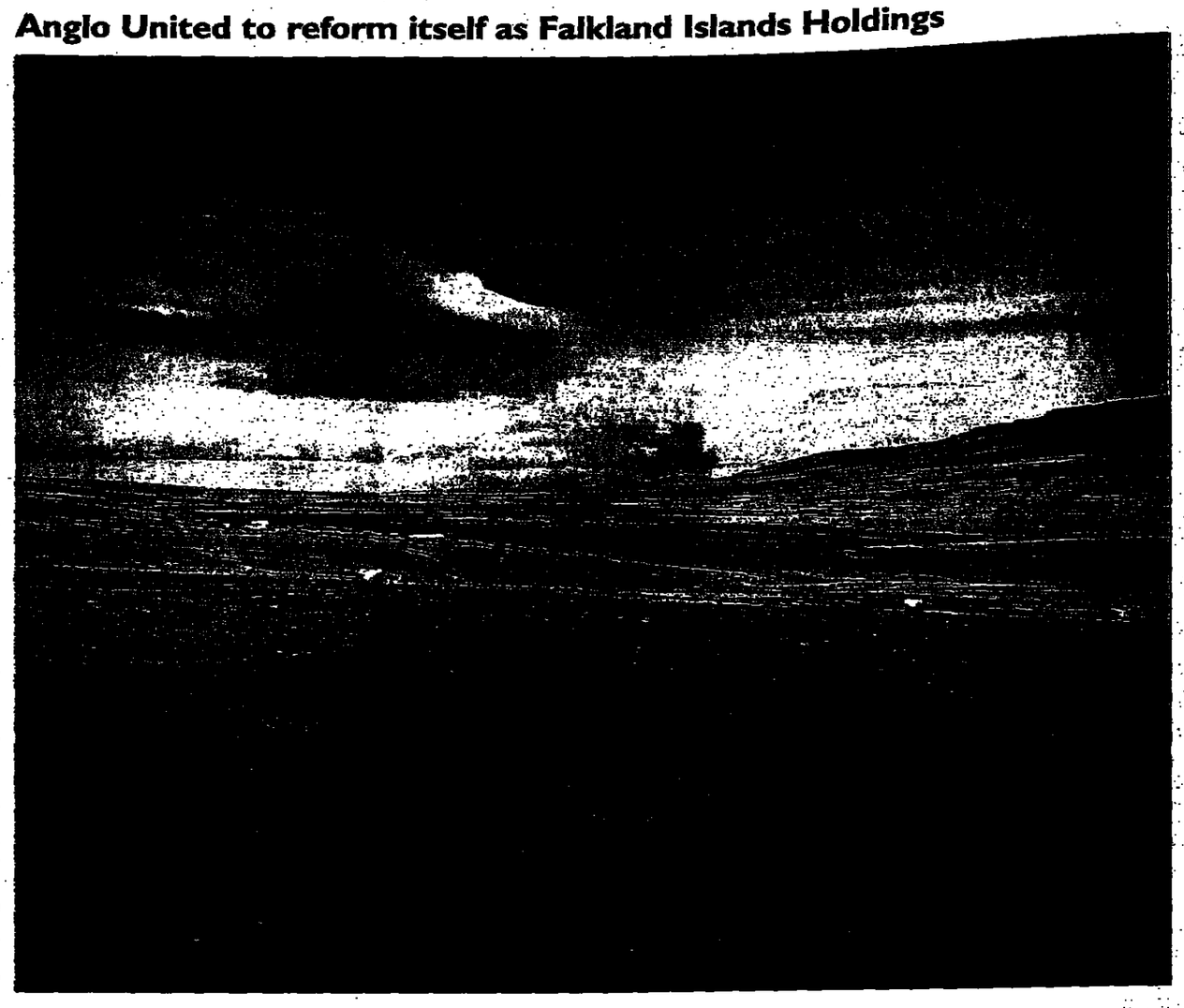
Apart from Rolls-Royce, Mayflower would also retain Vickers' growing marine engines business, which makes propulsion systems for the new generation of fast ferries.

Mayflower has grown rapidly since 1989 out of the "shell" of the former Triangle toy company. Through share issues and acquisitions, its sales have soared from £27m in 1991 to £202m in 1995.

The possible bid for Vickers follows a setback for Mr Simpson last year. His £172m bid to buy a US car suspension maker was trumped by a much larger American rival. Mayflower recently revealed a 58 per cent rise in half-yearly profits, to £16m.

Outlook, page 25

Anglo United to reform itself as Falkland Islands Holdings



Anglo United, the troubled fuels company which makes Coalite synthetic coal, is to break up its operations and switch the name of its core business to Falkland Islands Holdings as part of a bid to rid itself of what it calls "unmanageable" debts.

The new company is the product of an last-ditch attempt to save the rump of Anglo's business after Thomas Potts withdrew a June offer to buy Coalite Products. Coalite Products owns the Falkland Islands Group, which comprises The Falkland Islands Company, The Falkland Islands Trading Company and Darwin Shipping.

Anglo's bankers have agreed to raise their stake in Anglo from 49.9 to 74.9 per cent in exchange for reducing the debt of £37.9m. Shareholders will get a stake in Falkland Islands Holdings, whose debts will have been reduced to just £2m – "a manageable level of debt," according to Anglo. Each shareholder will get one share in Falkland Islands Holdings for every 300 in Anglo. The new company will then seek a listing.

The new company will own Coalite and the Falkland Islands companies. But it will be able to sell all the old businesses except Coalite to Middlebright, a company owned by two of Anglo's directors, John Gainham and Roger Wallace. According to Anglo, Middlebright's shares are likely to have no value because of Anglo's old debts.

When the new company lists, Collins Stewart, the stockbroker firm, will reduce the banks' stake to 40 per cent by placing 2.1 million shares at 100p each.

ScottishTelecom offers Racal a partnership

ScottishPower is hatching plans to expand its telephones business south of the border, with an offer to turn Racal's telecommunications operations around.

***But as Chris Godsmark*, Business Correspondent, reports, the multi-utility is not prepared to launch a full-scale bid to buy the Racal division.**

The approach to Sir Ernest Harrison, Racal's chairman, would form part of an ambitious plan to give ScottishTelecom, ScottishPower's telephones business, a bigger foothold in the English and Welsh phones market. Racal has appointed Merrill Lynch, the US investment bank, to seek partners or a buyer for Racal Telecom and two offers are now known to have been made by the deadline for expressions of interest, which expired last month.

They present Racal with the choice of a firm buyer, in the form of Duncan Lewis, the former head of Mercury and senior Granada executive, pitted against ScottishPower, which is seeking a partnership without paying cash for a direct shareholding. Mr Lewis, backed by Schroder Ventures, is thought to be offering around £400m to buy the whole of Racal Telecom.

ScottishTelecom has built up a long-distance network in Scotland by running telephone lines along its electricity wires in the same way as National Grid's Energis operation. Since May it has expanded into the residential market in Edinburgh, using fixed wireless technology similar to Ionica, with 7,750 customers connected by the end of September.

Ian Russell, ScottishPower finance director and chairman of ScottishTelecom, has set a target of capturing 10 per cent of the £2bn Scottish telephones market by 2000. The pace of growth at ScottishTelecom has surprised the industry. It is poised to earn revenues of around £110m this year and, unlike Energis, is making a profit.

A partnership with Racal would give ScottishTelecom access to a long-distance network across the UK and lucrative contracts to supply telecommunications services to Government departments. Racal Telecom expanded in 1995 with a £130m takeover of BRT, the old British Rail telephones business which runs wires alongside railway tracks.

However the cost of a full-scale takeover of Racal Telecom has apparently been ruled out by ScottishPower, which is still digesting its £1.7bn purchase of Southern Water last year. The multi-utility group, which announced its results yesterday, had debts of £1.7bn at the end of September, boosted by its higher-than-expected £317m windfall tax provision.

Profits before exceptional charges in the six months rose by 44 per cent, to £240m, helped by the contribution from Southern Water. Including the windfall tax, ScottishPower revealed losses after tax of £133.6m, the first since privatisation.

Meanwhile ScottishPower yesterday pledged to unveil two more marketing alliances for its domestic gas business on top of a recent link-up with the Automobile Association. The new alliances were also likely to be with affinity groups like the AA, though ScottishPower declined to give details.

The company said it had signed up 55,000 domestic gas customers in Scotland since competition began last weekend, a much lower figure than the 200,000 claimed by Eastern Group, despite ScottishPower's stronger brand identity.

Whitbread looks at German openings

Whitbread is considering expanding some of its hotel and leisure formats into continental Europe. The budget-priced Travel Inn hotel concept and the David Lloyd Leisure centres are the most likely candidates, with Germany the favoured market. *Nigel Cope*, City Correspondent, reports.

David Thomas, Whitbread's chief executive, said the group was "looking hard" at whether the two formats could be transferred to Germany. Whitbread already has some restaurant outlets there and analysts said Travel Inn hotels could be operated alongside them. The David Lloyd centres, which feature tennis courts, swimming pools and gyms, would benefit from a relative lack of competition in the German market, analysts said. However, the company conceded it may have to change the name of the tennis centres. "Perhaps it should be Boris Becker centres," joked Alan Perelman, finance director.

Mr Thomas said the idea was in its early stages and that high costs may prove a deterrent. "The consumer appeal in Germany for these two brands is high but it is a case of whether they can actually make a return for our shareholders. Land and labour costs in Europe are higher."

Analysts said the expansion into Germany would make sense as Whitbread already operated three branded restaurant chains, Maredo, Tascaria Maredo and Churrasco there. However, they cautioned that Whitbread's previous overseas forays, with Pizza Hut in France and other formats in America and Australia, had not been conspicuously successful.

Mr Thomas said that the group's recent acquisitions – Marriott Hotels, David Lloyd Leisure and Costa Coffee – were all earnings enhancing in the six months to September and that their performances were ahead of budget.

Whitbread is on track to create 6,000 jobs this year as part of its new opening programme. It is opening a hotel every 10 days and a restaurant every four days. The plan is to spend £450m in the full year opening 250 new outlets. These will be spread across the group's formats, which include Brewers Fayre and Hogshead pubs and the Café Rouge and Dôme restaurants. The next 18 months will also see a further nine David Lloyd Leisure centres open, taking the total to 27.

The announcement came as Whitbread announced an 11.6 per cent increase in first-half pre-exceptional profits to £198m. Profits in the beer division improved 13 per cent with beer volumes up 2.4 per cent in a falling market. The company said the priority was to focus pubs on food, families and females, which were the key to rising consumer appeal. Though 1,000 pubs a year are closing, Whitbread said these were largely unbranded community pubs with poor food offers.

In the Inns business, food and drinks margins rose despite competitive pressures. In hotels, operating profits rose by 21 per cent to £19.5m. The Marriott hotels improved occupancy to 92 per cent in London and 77 per cent elsewhere. Whitbread's group sales were 8.4 per cent ahead at £1.6bn. The shares rose 11p to 801p.

Separately, Nomura International has sold 845 tenanted pubs to Grovebase Properties, a new company formed by Hugh Osmond, an executive director of PizzaExpress. The pubs were part of the 1,720 pubs sold to Nomura in the Phoenix Inns deal for £249m at the beginning of 1995.

IT company to create 2,000 jobs

One of Britain's biggest information technology groups moved yesterday to plug the skills gap in the computer industry by offering to create up to 2,000 jobs, writes *Sameena Ahmad*.

Telephones to CRT, Britain's largest information technology recruiter, were jammed yesterday as a flood of people from fork-lift truck drivers to policemen clamoured to join an innovative programme to create 2,000 new IT jobs in the UK in the next five years.

The scheme, launched yesterday and costing £70m, is an attempt to solve the critical shortage of skilled computer staff in the UK. Around 50,000 new people are needed in the industry by 2000 to meet demand driven by the millennium problem, monetary union and booming growth of IT in business. CRT's programme, which is targeting women and people over 40 in particular, invites anyone to apply, even those who have never used a computer before, promising applicants who pass a series of tests and a three-month training probation period a permanent, full-time job and annual salary of up to £40,000.

Though the scheme, called Career IT, has yet to be advertised, CRT received 600 telephone calls yesterday asking for application forms. A handful have already returned their forms on email. Karl Chapman, CRT's chief executive, said he was "staggered" by the response. "The only places people will have heard about this is at 5.50am on Radio 5 and just after 6am on BBC Radio Scotland. That's hardly peak listening time. We are absolutely delighted. Tomorrow is going to be very busy."

Mr Chapman said he was looking for people who were "bubbly" and with the right attitude, not necessarily with experience. "Personality is what is wanted plus a logical mind. In IT, only 30 per cent of the spend is on hardware. The rest is on people."

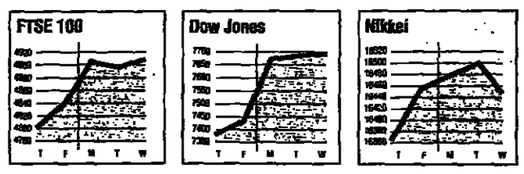
He said the number of women in IT was "ridiculously low" and he would advertise the scheme in women's magazines. The staff shortages, he added, were partly a result of the industry's "geeky image for anoraks".

Richard Holway, the respected IT consultant and author of the industry bible, *The Holway Report* said: "I think it's absolutely novel. CTR has opened training to people who've got aptitude rather than the expected educational qualifications and that is to be commended. Anything that people can do to solve this desperate problem is welcome."

However Mr Holway warned that CRT's proposals would do little to solve the current skill shortage: "I personally believe there is not much anyone can do to solve this. The problem is acute. The main demand is the year 2000 in the next 18 months and these people won't be ready in time."

Several in the industry are exploring novel ways to recruit extra IT staff. ICL, the computing group, this week wrote to 350 retired staff who are experts in Cobol, the old computer language which is the cause of the year 2000 crisis, asking them to return. Logica, which had a profits warning because it could not recruit people fast enough, opened a walk-in careers centre in London to attract new staff.

STOCK MARKETS



*Dow Jones index and graph at 5pm

Indices

Index	Close	Change	Change(%)	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yield(%)
FTSE 100	4908.30	10.90	0.22	5367.30	3882.70	3.55
FTSE 250	4686.80	12.00	0.26	4963.80	4321.80	3.45
FTSE 350	2371.50	5.40	0.23	2570.50	1935.70	3.53
FTSE All Share	2322.11	5.19	0.22	2507.68	1925.79	3.51
FTSE SmallCap	2325.3	3.60	0.16	2407.40	2127.50	3.21
FTSE Fledgling	1272.9	1.60	0.13	1346.50	1198.70	3.34
FTSE AIM	995.7	3.60	0.36	1138.00	965.90	1.01
Dow Jones	7699.93	10.80	0.14	8299.03	6011.49	1.74
Nikkei	16448.05	-52.05	-0.32	21460.57	16082.32	0.93
Hang Seng	10681.75	-99.03	-0.92	16820.31	8775.88	3.90
Dax	3866.58	54.23	1.42	4459.89	2665.88	2.06

INTEREST RATES

at 5 pm

Money Market Rates

Index	3 month	1 yr chg	1 year	1 yr chg	10 year	1 yr chg
UK	7.44	1.15	7.62	0.87	6.59	-1.04
US	5.77	0.27	5.97	0.25	5.93	-0.34
Japan	0.52	0.02	0.56	-0.04	1.79	-0.81
Germany	3.70	0.50	4.09	0.71	5.62	-0.31

Bond Yields

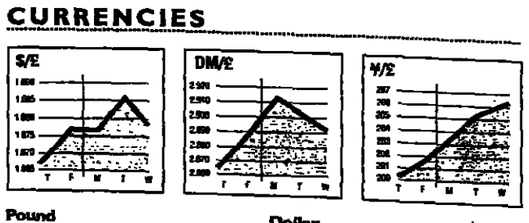
Index	Long bond	1 yr chg
UK	6.50	-1.37
US	6.24	-0.35
Japan	2.38	-0.77
Germany	6.24	-0.52

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

Rises	Price (p)	Chg (p)	% Chge
Schroders PLC-NV	1529.00	189.00	14.10
Pentland Group	101.00	10.00	10.99
Schroders PLC	1800.00	175.00	10.77
Booker PLC	315.00	26.50	9.19

Falls	Price (p)	Chg (p)	% Chge
Natl Grid Group	279.00	-9.00	-3.1[illegible]
Rank Group PLC	332.00	-10.00	-2.9[illegible]
TI Group PLC	568.00	-17.00	-2.91
Severn Trent	864.5	-25.5	-2.87

CURRENCIES



Pound

	at 5pm	Change	Yr Ago
Dollar	1.6780	-0.66c	1.6456
D-Mark	2.8930	-0.59pf	2.5002
Yen	206.19	+¥0.76	188.04
£ index	102.90	0.00	91.40

Dollar

	at 5pm	Change	Yr Ago
Sterling	0.5960	+0.23p	0.6077
D-Mark	1.7237	+0.02pf	1.5207
Yen	122.88	+¥0.93	114.26
$ index	104.50	0.00	97.10

OTHER INDICATORS

* at 5 pm	Close	Chg	Yr Ago
Brent Oil ($)	18.97	0.03	21.37
Gold ($)	314.05	-1.10	378.75
Silver ($)	4.85	0.01	4.83

	Index	Chg	Yr ago	Next Rpt
GDP	114.00	3.90	109.7	Jan
RPI	159.30	3.6	153.76	Nov
Base Rates		7.00	6.00	

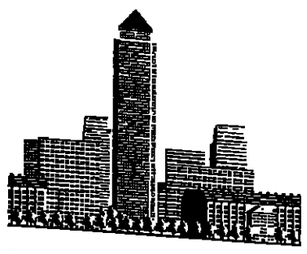
www.bloomberg.com

source: Bloomberg

هكذا من الاصل

هكذا من الاصل

Mayflower's bid for Vickers is full of holes



OUTLOOK

ON AN IMPLAUSIBLE BID, OVERSEAS AID AND TOBACCO SPONSORSHIP

It's not quite: "I loved the Roller so much I bought the company," but it's not far from it. Mayflower bidding for Vickers would have seemed inconceivable only a couple of years ago when the car body maker was barely a quarter the size of the Challenger tank and Rolls-Royce cars group. Now they are almost the same size, it is merely implausible.

All the same, it is not hard to see why Mayflower should have swung into action after Vickers announced last week it was selling its luxury car subsidiary. The company has carved out a lucrative niche designing and building car bodies and its profits are flourishing. The potential loss of its Rolls-Royce account to a rival with better connections in Munich would have dealt it a severe blow – what more certain way of securing the business than by buying it?

That's the thrust of the commercial argument. For the gist of the financial case look no further than the recent share price performance of the two companies. Since the beginning of 1993, Mayflower's share price has risen more than 10-fold as it has cashed in on the trend among car manufacturers to outsource the design of their ever more diverse ranges. Vickers' shares are worth about the same as they were 10 years ago when Sir Ron Brierley was trying to break the group up.

Look any closer than this, however, and the holes start to appear. First, cash. It would be optimistic to assume Vickers' shareholders would accept anything less than a 30 per cent premium to the company's present market value of around £800m. A bid of £1.1bn would probably entail doubling the number of Mayflower shares in issue even before the assumption of over £500m of debt. It would be wrong to assume that the planned disposal of the defence arm into a buyers' market would make much of a dent in those borrowings.

Having never spent more than £100m on an acquisition, it is hard to believe Mayflower is really up to the possible £500m cost of developing the next generation of Rolls-Royce cars. Vickers itself took one look at that bill and hoisted the for-sale sign – what hope Mayflower? But just in case Mayflower is serious, Vickers has cleverly pre-empted its designs, by getting this out into the market place before Mayflower was ready to go. That makes Mayflower's chances of success even more remote.

Clare Short's crusade on aid

Tricky stuff, overseas aid. Always has been and by the look of yesterday's White Paper on international development – *Eliminating World Poverty: A Challenge for the 21st Century* – it seems destined to remain that way. In many respects this is a terrific document, filled with passion, moral indignation and a genuine, crusading approach to the cause of world improvement. In other words, there is quite a lot of Clare Short herself in this worthy and sometimes breathless tome. But does it advance the underlying case for overseas aid by very much? It's arguable either way.

Right-wing hard liners have long insisted that overseas aid is not only a waste of taxpayers' money, but most of the time is also a positively bad thing, discouraging enterprise in the developing world, encouraging unsustainable financial policies, propping up corrupt and dictatorial regimes, polluting the environment and generally doing a lot more harm than good. The evidence to support this view is legion. But it is not so overwhelming as to win the argument outright.

Furthermore, the Government's White Paper makes no attempt to defend the past record of overseas aid. Rather the reverse. It is strongly critical of aid for the purpose of geo-political influence and it commits the Government to abandoning the aid for trade policies of the past – ie we help finance a public works project and you place the orders with our companies. Both approaches it rightly condemns as economically flawed and politically incorrect.

Although the alleviation of poverty has always been the implicit policy goal of overseas aid, this has not always been apparent in the way aid is allocated. Ms Short tries to make it explicit. Sustainable development and livelihoods for the world's poor becomes the whole purpose of aid. Few people are going to quarrel with the vaguely political pre-conditions she does introduce, such as the Government's commitment to human rights and environmentally friendly development. Priority is also to be given in the allocation of aid "to the value of maintaining a sound fiscal balance and low inflation". Though Ms Short probably had to be shoe horned into including this stipulation, again this is pretty uncontentious stuff, even for the left, these days.

The document is also refreshingly honest in the way it makes its case for aid. There is no serious attempt to justify the giving of aid as economically valuable to Britain, except in so far as a richer world creates better trade opportunities: Rather, the purpose of aid is a moral one, to make us feel better about ourselves and to establish Britain as a world leader in compassion. Unfortunately, this may not be enough to persuade Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, to double Ms Short's overseas aid budget, for that is what she is after here.

Formula One's addiction

The Health Secretary Frank Dobson's plan to ban all tobacco sponsorship of sporting events looks spookily like turning into Labour's equivalent of the Dangerous Dogs Act. Like all proposals dreamt up on the hoof and announced without sufficient thought, it now seems to be unravelling fast.

To many, Formula One racing looks like little more than a giant billboard for the tobacco industry. Unless you go to Grand Prix circuits to watch the crashes, it is impossible to avoid the ubiquitous advertising of the weed. It is on everything, from the race teams and their cars to the overalls and the track side hoardings. Like secondary smoking, it permeates everywhere.

Unfortunately, it has now fallen to Mr Dobson's junior minister, Tessa Jowell, to recognise that there is very little that can be done to stop this, either at a national or European level.

Ban tobacco sponsorship and it is bye-bye to Silverstone and the British Grand Prix and perhaps also the UK's pole position as home to most of the big constructors. But since motor racing is the quintessential international sport, it will simply relocate elsewhere and then continue to beam the pictures back into our living rooms from the safety of Asia or eastern Europe.

Ms Jowett proposes instead that Formula One be exempted from a proposed European Union directive banning nearly all forms of tobacco sponsorship in return for an undertaking in principle from the sport to make its tobacco advertising less visible.

It is easy to see why the sport's governing body, the FIA, is keen on the idea, since a blanket European ban could begin to hurt its image and income. It is also easy to see why the idea has smoked out the opposition in the shape of Action on Smoking and Health and possibly, the EU commissioner responsible for the directive, Padraig Flynn. Harder to see is why a UK-brokered compromise should turn the on-off flotation of F1 into a guaranteed success. Bernie Ecclestone still has much bigger fires to put out, starting with the tiresome refusal of Williams and two other leading teams to sign up to a deal for dividing up the all-important television income.

Service sector data at odds with slowdown

Despite weaker-than-expected industrial production in September, renewed buoyancy in the service sector has put pressure on the Bank of England's policy-makers to increase interest rates. *Tom Stevenson*, Financial Editor, reports on the latest batch of statistics.

Further evidence of Britain's two-speed economy emerged yesterday after the September data for both industrial and manufacturing production were weaker than expected but October numbers for the service sector rose to their highest level since July.

Economists said that because the service sector was three times bigger than the manufacturing side of the economy and because it had been the main driving force of GDP growth this year, any further acceleration in services would have to be met by higher interest rates.

The Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee concludes its monthly meeting today and is expected to leave interest rates unchanged. Some economists believe, however, that the apparent slowing in the economy might simply be a pause before growth resurges and they expect at least another quarter-point rise in base rates from the current 7 per cent before the cycle peaks.

According to the latest survey of members of the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply (Cips), all measures of business activity – new business, outstanding work, prices and input costs – rose in October. The survey showed recruitment difficulties were putting upward pressure on wages in some sectors. Strong competition means those higher costs are not being passed on to consumers, which is keeping a lid on service sector inflation. But the MPC is expected to be concerned about the upward pressure on wages.

Peter Thomson, director general of Cips, said: "The service sector economy has picked up since the weaker growth over the summer, though expansion is not as strong as it was in the first six months of the year. Skill shortages continue to drive up costs by pushing up salaries, but the outlook for inflation remains favourable."

According to Kevin Darlington, economist at Hoare Govett, there has been a worrying extension of tightness in the labour market from skilled jobs to low-skilled vacancies. He believes the figures show a slowdown in service industries is not imminent.

Industrial production fell by 0.2 per cent in September thanks largely to erratic oil and utilities output. Oil and gas production fell by 1.6 per cent while electricity and water supply industries fell by 2.4 per cent. Even so, the underlying picture for the predominant manufacturing sector was disappointing.

The rise in September for manufacturing was only 0.2 per cent. It failed to make up for the fall in August, which was revised up from 0.1 per cent to 0.3 per cent. As a result, the year-on-year growth in manufacturing was only 1.5 per cent.

According to Jonathan Loynes, economist at HSBC Markets, however, manufacturing output during the three months to September showed a "reasonable recovery". He said: "With today's purchasing managers' report showing continued above-trend growth in the services sector, the numbers together support the idea that interest rates have a little further to rise before reaching a peak."

Adair Turner: 'I would like the Tories to say they have an open mind on issues to do with Europe' Photograph: PA

Business may force early EMU entry

The Confederation of British Industry yesterday predicted that *de facto* adoption of the euro by many large businesses would increase the pressure for early UK entry into a European single currency after the 1999 launch date.

Speaking in the run-up to the CBI's annual conference next week, which is certain to be dominated by the twin themes of Europe and monetary union, Adair Turner, director general, predicted that many companies would bill and invoice in euros. He also forecast that significant numbers of firms would get suppliers to bill in euros and arrange euro borrowings to hedge their exchange rate exposure to the new currency.

The Government has backed the principle of EMU but has effectively ruled out Britain joining before 2002 because economic conditions will not be appropriate. However, Mr Turner said: "There will be a *de facto* element of adoption. EMU will put in place developments which increase business support for early entry.

"The euro will put British companies at a degree of competitive disadvantage and over time that will generate increasing demand for entry, not just from big multi-nationals but medium-sized exporters becoming increasingly vocal about the disadvantages they are exposed to."

Several large companies, including Marks and Spencer, have decided to accept the euro at their tills when notes and coins start circulating in 2002 and others such as BP are considering switching their accounts to the euro.

Mr Turner also took a side swipe at the Tory leadership under William Hague, which has ruled out participation in a single currency for 10 years. Criticising the Conservatives' stance, he said: "I would like them to say they have an open mind on issues to do with Europe, particularly EMU, that they are going to listen to business opinion on that issue and that they are going to play the role of a constructive and pragmatic opposition."

He refused to be drawn, however, on whether the Tory split on EMU, with heavyweights such as Kenneth Clarke and Michael Heseltine coming out for early entry, presaged a schism in the party to rank alongside the realignment of politics on the left in the early 1980s with the creation of the SDP. "That is interesting speculation for others to go through," he said.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Gordon Brown, will address the CBI conference in Birmingham on Monday and will be followed by Mr Hague. The Prime Minister, Tony Blair, will bring the proceedings to a climax with a live video link on Tuesday. He had been scheduled to speak on education but has changed his theme to Europe to reinforce the message that Labour has inherited the mantle of the party for business.

The conference will also see the launch of a debate about labour market flexibility across Europe, in itself one of the key factors on which the success of monetary union will turn. The CBI is warning that without greater flexibility in labour markets, the benefits of EMU will be diluted.

There have been moves towards freeing up labour markets in areas such as flexible skills. But there has been much less movement in the contentious areas of wage flexibility and demanning. In France, Italy and even the Netherlands, there is only very limited scope for firms to adjust employee levels to suit competitive conditions without incurring heavy costs and in some member states it remains illegal or impossible to achieve without lengthy consultation periods.

Mr Turner said that although conditions on the Continent were often compared unfavourably to the open labour markets of Britain and the US, the situation was not as bad as imagined. Germany had introduced a degree of decentralised wage bargaining, the Dutch allowed greater flexibility in working hours and in Italy there had been a degree of loosening with government support for the abolition of earnings indexation.

However, the CBI cautioned that it was important not to adopt a "one size fits all" approach to labour flexibility across all countries.

– Michael Harrison

Thames Water rejects £400m bid

Thames Water has received a £400m takeover offer from Generale des Eaux for its portfolio of non-regulated businesses. Though Thames has rejected the approach, it could raise the prospect of further bids for the business, as *Chris Godsmark*, Business Correspondent, reports.

The surprise move by General des Eaux, the French utility giant, demonstrates the turnaround in the fortunes of Thames' non-regulated businesses since they were last year forced to write off £95m after a series of costly overseas diversifications.

Generale des Eaux, which owns two passenger train franchises in the South-east of England and four smaller drinking water companies, approached Thames earlier this year with an offer, understood to be worth £400m in cash, for all of its non-regulated companies. Generale des Eaux has been one of the most aggressive companies in bids for overseas water contracts, with markets opening up across Asia and South America as state utilities seek private finance to repair decades of underinvestment.

Rumours of the approach have fuelled the Thames share price in recent weeks. The shares had outperformed the stock market by 9 per cent over the past two months until a plunge on profit-taking this week after the company announced a 7 per cent rise in pre-exceptional half yearly profits, to £202m.

A Thames spokesman declined to discuss the bid approach last night. "We can never comment on market rumours," he said. A Generale des Eaux spokesman said there was "no substance" to the speculation. However City analysts yesterday said Thames had turned down the offer, which executives argued did not reflect the true potential of the non-regulated businesses. On Tuesday the combined operations reported a rise in profits of £10m in the six months to the end of September, to £19m.

Since the restructuring last year, Thames has exited from foreign infrastructure contracting operations, preferring to concentrate on bids to operate water and sewerage schemes.

Thames' international operations were given a strong boost this summer with a huge long-term contract to supply the eastern half of the Indonesian capital, Jakarta, with drinking water. In China, the first phase of a project to supply water to 2 million people in Shanghai has been completed.

NEW INVESTMENT RATES

Effective from 6 November 1997

ANNUAL RATES	GROSS%p.a.	NET%p.a.
SCARBOROUGH 120		
£5,000 - £9,999.99	7.20	5.76
£10,000 - £250,000	7.30	5.84
SCARBOROUGH 120 BY POST		
£5,000 - £9,999.99	7.20	5.76
£10,000 - £250,000	7.30	5.84

MONTHLY RATES	GROSS%p.a.	NET%p.a.
SCARBOROUGH 120		
£5,000 - £9,999.99	6.97	5.58
£10,000 - £250,000	7.07	5.66
SCARBOROUGH 120 BY POST		
£5,000 - £9,999.99	6.97	5.58
£10,000 - £250,000	7.07	5.66

SCARBOROUGH building society

Prospect House PO Box 6
Scarborough YO12 6EQ

For full details, please contact your local Branch or phone our 24 hour Investment Information Line on:

01723 500616

The interest rates on all other accounts are unchanged. All rates are variable. Please note that gross monthly rates do not compound to the full annual rates shown. Interest is payable gross to non-taxpayers, subject to the required certification by all account holders, otherwise income tax will be deducted at the appropriate rate. Non-taxpayers may be able to reclaim this tax from the Inland Revenue. Net rates are illustrative only (assumes a rate of income tax of 20%). The Society will continue to forward marketing material to you unless you have specifically requested otherwise. This notice is given under terms, conditions and rules of the Society. Member of the Building Societies Association.

Microsoft 'poised to invest $1bn' in US West cable

Speculation is mounting that Microsoft, the world's largest software company, is on the verge of buying a substantial stake in US West's cable operations. Reports in the US press said that Microsoft was poised to invest $1bn (£600m) to buy around 6 per cent of the company's cable business. US West is a local phones monopoly based in Colorado.

Only a few weeks ago, rumours were circulating in the US that Microsoft would buy a stake in Tele-Communications Inc (TCI). Both TCI and US West are major shareholders in Telewest Communications, the UK's second largest cable company. TCI also owns Flextech, the UK cable and satellite programmer.

A spokeswoman for Microsoft said she could not respond to market speculation, although the company has in the past said it was talking to various cable companies about possible investments. US West also refused to comment.

However, industry observers said investing in US West would fit with Microsoft's declared strategegy of buying into access providers.

In June this year, the company poured $1bn into an 11.5 per cent stake in Comcast, the fourth-largest cable television operator in the US. Microsoft said at the time that the deal would enhance Comcast's delivery of high-speed data and video services. It also marked Microsoft's growing interest in positioning itself as a content provider capable of controlling access to the internet and digital television.

The company recently acquired WebTV Networks for $425m, which allowed it to cash in on the public appetite for PCTVs – units which combine personal computers with television sets.

Last month, Microsoft's chief financial officer, Greg Maffei, said his company was talking to a number of cable operators. "We're investing in things that will help us further our strategy," he said.

For the year to the end of June, Microsoft announced revenues of $11.36bn, a 31 per cent increase year-on-year.

US West announced last week that it would split into two public companies in the middle of next year. The two groups will be US West Communications, the telephones business, and MediaOne Group, the third-largest cable televison operator in the US.

– Cathy Newman

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN
EDITED BY SAMEENA AHMAD

Boring old Whitbread

With the pub sector suffering a hangover, Whitbread's predictably boring results were a tonic. The big brewers have been out of favour recently following warnings from both Greenalls and Wolverhampton & Dudley. The fear was that with the huge sums being poured into developing managed pubs, returns would suffer. Whitbread's share price was dragged down too with the shares tumbling from 850p in July to less than 700p a week or two ago. But they have been recovering recently. Yesterday's half-year results served to further reassure that the company is on track.

Underlying pre-tax profits in the half year to August rose 12 per cent to £198m. The figures pushed the shares 11p higher to 801p. Though Whitbread hinted yesterday that it may expand some of its hotel and leisure brands on the Continent, what the market really wants to see are improvements on the return on its existing portfolio. This has been expanded significantly in the last few years by buying David Lloyd Leisure, Pelican restaurants and Marriott Hotels.

Encouragingly, Whitbread pointed out that it has invested £440m in new pub and restaurant openings in the last three years and that the annualised return on capital in 1997/98 was expected to be 16 per cent.

In beer, Whitbread has bucked the trend, improving volumes by 2.4 per cent in a market down 0.8 per cent. In sectors such as take-home, brands like Stella Artois have increased sales by 28 per cent.

If there is a potential problem in the Whitbread portfolio it may be Café Rouge. Though it is being expanded successfully outside London, like-for-like growth is just 1 per cent and the central London outlets are suffering from increasing competition.

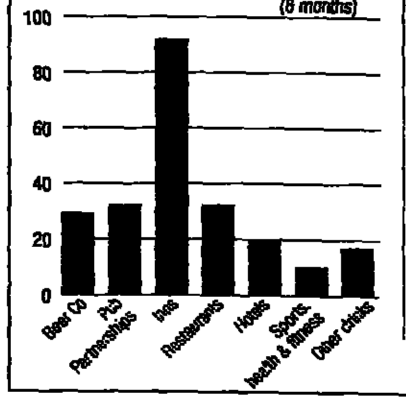
But with the hotels business storming away with strong rises in occupancy and yields, it is hard to find much to grumble about. On SBC Warburg's full-year forecasts of £348m, the shares trade on a prospective multiple of less than 15. That is a discount to the market and as a defensive stock looks a safe haven in these volatile markets. Hold.

Whitbread : At a glance

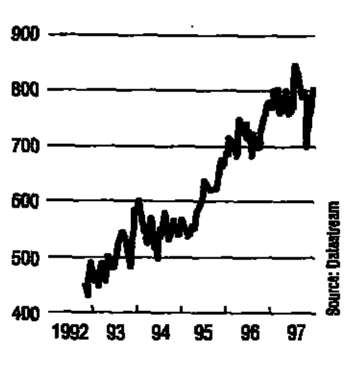
Market value: £3.92bn, share price 801p (+11p)

Trading record	1995	1996	1997	6 months 96/97	6 months 97/98
Turnover (£bn)	2.47	2.75	3.03	1.50	1.63
Pre-tax profits (£m)	275.4	285.7	302.8	178.1	206.6
Earnings per share (p)	42.76	46.08	50.84	27.23	32.86
Dividends per share (p)	20.2	21.85	23.8	6.25	6.82

Operating profits by division £m (6 months)



Share price



Tough future for ScottishPower

Executives from ScottishPower, like other multi-utilities, should chant the following mantra in the bathroom mirror every morning: "Doing deals is easy; reaping rewards in the long term is the difficult bit." A quick glance behind ScottishPower's impressive looking 44 per cent rise in interim profits, to £240m, shows the problem.

Almost all of the increase was due to the £1.7bn takeover last year of Southern Water, which has made direct year-on-year comparisons difficult. ScottishPower can point to successes, including selling £90m of Southern's rag-bag of non-regulated businesses, against an initial projection of £70m. This helped underlying like-for-like profits at Southern rise by 24 per cent.

But at ScottishPower's other business the performance looks less impressive. Generation earnings fell by £7m in the six months to the end of September, while at energy supply, the £5m cost of the company's assault on the domestic gas market halved profits to £5.7m. The story at Manweb, the regional electricity company, was of static profits of £50.5m as tough price controls on power distribution took their toll. On top of all this is the group's debt-laden balance sheet, with gearing set to rise to 125 per cent next year after the £317m windfall tax provision.

Against this ScottishPower has done more than most to grow its non-regulated businesses. The telecoms arm is making profits – a big achievement against its industry peers. The company insists its domestic gas business is also profitable, but it faces a stern test next year when British Gas cuts its prices by 9 per cent and wades into the electricity market.

From now on the going can only get tougher. Though the group's shares firmed 2.5p to 439.5p, investors cannot expect the miracles to continue forever.

Rag and bone boost for Shanks

After years in the dumps, Britain's waste management sector is starting to look worth digging into. Long overdue consolidation is finally happening. In August General Utilities took out Leigh Interests for £116m and South West Water has bought Southern Water's waste business for £11m. Waste disposal prices are starting to rise. With fixed overheads, this is boosting profits. And increasingly stringent legislation is working in the big boys' favour.

The landfill tax introduced last year is prompting companies to use specialised disposal methods which only the big players can provide. Though recycling prices have been falling, European legislation early next year will make recycling of everything from paper to steel a legal requirement.

Shanks & McEwan, the UK's second-biggest waste group, should benefit from all this. Michael Averill, chief executive at Shanks, which yesterday posted underlying profits up 10 per cent to £67.6m for the half year to September, believes recycling will be a massive market. With no real competition, the group has scope to grow its recycling business, currently loss making. With gearing at 19 per cent and some 3,000 small private waste groups in the UK, Shanks is poised to make acquisitions.

Meanwhile, Shanks is the only UK group with a contract to incinerate meat and bone meal from slaughtered cows at risk of BSE. Shanks' contract is to process 45,000 tonnes in the next three years. But with a 300,000 tonne mountain of pulped cow building up, there is more work if Labour is prepared to pay. Shanks' share price, down 2.5p to 148.5p, is creeping back after hitting almost 240p in the early 1990s. On a forward p/e of 17 times, decent value, particularly given the bid whiff in the air.

Strike and sterling cost BA £250m

British Airways yesterday revealed the scars left by this summer's cabin crew strike and the strong pound as it reported a 34 per cent drop in profits for the key July to September period. *Michael Harrison* reports.

BA disclosed that the industrial action and the impact of exchange rates had blown a £250m hole in its performance, cutting second-quarter profits from £320m a year ago to £210m.

However, the airline soothed City worries by reporting that its business efficiency plan would deliver savings of £200m this year and that it was now more than half-way towards its goal of cutting £1bn from costs by 2000.

Bob Ayling, BA's chief executive, said the measures taken so far – including the outsourcing and sale of parts of the business, relocation of some accounting functions to India and redundancy programmes – would produce £600m savings.

The remaining £400m would come from efficiency improvements, re-organisation of flight schedules and driving down supplier costs. The extra savings, he added, were not contingent upon BA launching a low-cost, no-frills airline to compete with carriers like Ryanair, Debonair and easyJet.

The City reacted positively, marking BA shares up by 27p to 603p. The strike and exchange rate losses were also offset by £157m of exceptional profits from the sale of BA's stake in USAirways and part of its holding in the Galileo reservations system, which left first-half profits down 8.5 per cent at £430m.

Mr Ayling said BA did not expect a decision from Brussels until early next year on whether its alliance with American Airlines would be approved. BA brushed aside reports yesterday that the Commission would block the deal unless the two airlines came up with a package in the next couple of weeks setting out the number of take-off and landing slots they are prepared to surrender.

However, it has emerged that BA executives and officials from the Competition Commissioner Karel van Miert's division will meet next week to discuss slots. Brussels has said it wants BA and American to give up 350 slots but a compromise, based on them relinquishing 200-250 slots, is thought to be possible.

Sir Michael Bishop, chairman of British Midland, the country's second-biggest scheduled carrier, meanwhile disclosed that profits this year would show a "significant improvement" on the £7.2m achieved in 1996.

Sir Michael also sounded a warning note over the BA-AA alliance, and the open-skies deal that would follow if it is approved. Although it would lead to the "fares war to end all fares wars" across the Atlantic, it could also turn Heathrow into a "bucket and spade airport for North America".

Powerhouse keen to expand

Powerhouse, the electrical retail group which was a management buyout from Hanson last year, is likely to hit the acquisition trail soon as it seeks to expand its store portfolio. Glyn Moser, the company's chief executive, also said the company was considering a stock market flotation though there were no immediate plans.

Mr Moser is interested in acquiring some of the Shoe City out-of-town stores from Sears, the struggling retail group. Powerhouse is keen to add to its 36 superstores but says its 83 high street outlets are also performing well. With net cash of £17.2m, the company has the firepower to acquire a whole business rather than just individual sites.

Mr Moser was speaking as Powerhouse reported a pre-tax profit of £1.7m on sales up 8 per cent at £67m for the six months to September. The company had been losing £25m-£30m a year when it was acquired from Hanson in June last year.

Mr Moser said summer sales were boosted by the windfall money. But the company said this money was fast disappearing.

Powerhouse has formed a number of joint ventures for concessions in its stores. It has signed deals with Time Computers and DX Communications as well as trials with Country Kitchens and Jessops Photographics.

The group opened a further four superstores in the six months in Cardiff, Coventry, Dagenham and Southampton. A further three will open in the second half at Tamworth, Cannock and again at Cardiff. A total of £1.7m was spent on new openings in the first half.

– Nigel Cope

CLASSIFIED

Public Notices

OPRAF

RAILWAYS ACT 1993

PROPOSAL TO DISCONTINUE RAILWAY PASSENGER SERVICES

The Franchising Director gives notice under Sections 38 and 41 of the Railways Act 1993 that, after due consideration, on or after 24 May 1998 Central Trains Limited proposes to withdraw passenger services from and terminate the use of the following stations and route for passenger services:

SINFIN CENTRAL

SINFIN NORTH

THE ROUTE FROM MELBOURNE JUNCTION (NEAR PEARTREE STATION) TO SINFIN (DERBYSHIRE)

Objections to the proposed withdrawal of services and/or closure of the station, preferably in writing, may be lodged within six weeks of 13 November 1997, i.e. by 8th January 1998 with:-

Ms Teresa Perchard, Passenger Services Group, Office of the Rail Regulator, 1 Waterhouse Square, 138-142 Holborn, London EC1N 2ST
Telephone: 0645 645625 (all calls charged at local rate)
Fax: 0171 282 2043

The Rail Regulator may make objections public or copy them to the operator proposing the closure.

A statement of the reasons for the proposed closure can be inspected on any working day between 10am and 4pm at the Office of Passenger Rail Franchising (OPRAF), Golding's House, 2 Hay's Lane, London SE1 2HB, telephone 0171 940 4200, or at Derby City Council, with the following:

Steven Martin, Senior Committee Services Officer, Corporate Services, Derby City Council, The Council House, Corporation Street, Derby DE1 2FS
Tel: 01332 293111

Copies of the statement can be obtained by request from OPRAF. There will be no charge for copies.

The Rail Regulator will send a copy of every objection to the proposed closure which is lodged with him to the Rail Users' Consultative Committee (RUCC) for the Midlands. The RUCC will then consider whether the proposed closure will cause any hardship and, if so, what reasonable means of alleviating this hardship would be. The RUCC will prepare a report on their conclusions and send it to the Rail Regulator. The Rail regulator will decide whether the proposed closure should be allowed and, if so, whether any conditions should be attached to the closure.

There is very little use made of the Derby-Sinfin Branch by passengers and the signalling of the route is incompatible with modern rolling stock. As a consequence of this Central Trains Limited has been providing a taxi service on a daily basis since September 1993 to convey the small number of passengers using the service. Alternative transport is provided by the 38, 39, C38, C39, bus service run by Derby City Transport Services.

The Derby-Sinfin branch is fitted with Lucas low voltage track circuits. These are outdated and incompatible with track circuit actuator fitted trains, including all types of modern generation diesel multiple unit trains. The only trains that can be used on the service are the old "heritage" DMUs., these units are no longer used in the East Midlands.

The cost of replacing the track circuit equipment to allow modern trains to use the line was estimated in February 1997 to be £50,000. The Franchising Director does not consider the cost of replacement of the track circuit equipment represents good value for money given the very low numbers using the service.

These stations and the route will remain open and services will not be withdrawn until the Rail Regulator has made his decision.

Chris Stokes
Duly authorised by the Franchising Director

OFFICE OF PASSENGER RAIL FRANCHISING

Charities

WRITERS TAKE NOTE!

Enter the Cancer Research Campaign's new short story and poetry competition - Write for life - to get the chance of winning £2,000.

Stories should be 1-2,000 words in length, poems no more than 40 lines. The £5 entry fee will be ploughed back into vital cancer research. The CRC and Inner Wheel Club of Worthing Steyne are staging the event. Closing date is February 28 1998. The award ceremony is at Arundel's Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust next June. For more information and an entry form contact the CRC's 75th Anniversary Appeal Team, telephone: 0171 224 1333.

Registered Charity No. 225838

cancer research campaign

Unusual Gifts

THE INDEPENDENT

CHRISTMAS GIFT GUIDE

. . . With Christmas just around the corner, over 1.4 million *Independent* and *Independent on Sunday* readers will be looking for gift ideas.

Our **Christmas Gift Guide** can help you promote your products and services to our discerning readers.

The Christmas advertising section appears in both the *Independent* and *Independent on Sunday* on the following Saturdays and Sundays:-

November 8th-9th, 15th-16th, 22nd-23rd, 29th-30th
December 6th-7th

We not only offer special discounts - up to 25% for 14 insertions - but also our ***Christmas Competition*** encourages our readers to study the advertisements closely. To find out more and to book your space . . .

call the
Christmas Gift Guide Team
0171 293 2323
0171 293 2344

Source: NRS July '96-June '97

Credit agencies 'breaking the law' over data on relatives

Credit reference agencies may be breaking the law because they hold financial information on the relatives of people who apply for mortgages and other credit, according to *Which?*. The consumer magazine says the main credit reference agencies, Equifax and Experian, hold information on any relatives who have shared a home with a customer who applies for credit. Other people on the applicant's record who pay bills late can cause customers to be turned down for a mortgage or other loan. *Which?* said agencies were holding data on relatives at any previous address when the law only allows data on the last previous address. The magazine, which is tied to the Consumers' Association, retrieved 113 files from the agencies. Of these, eight contained information which is, according to the researchers, illegal. Serious mistakes were contained in a further nine people's files, with one showing a woman owing £1,637 when she had repaid this debt years before. In a separate survey of 8,000 people, the magazine found none of the big four banks – Lloyds TSB, Midland, NatWest and Barclays – were rated above average for their service. Yet they retain two-thirds of the country's customers.

Seagram profits advance

Seagram said yesterday that its first-quarter profit rose 4 per cent on improved performance by its drinks and music businesses. Net income in the quarter to the end of September rose to $133m (£79m), or 37 cents a share, from $127m in the same period a year before. The summer blockbuster, *The Lost World: Jurassic Park*, made a strong contribution, and profit at Seagram's global spirits and wine business rose to $191m from $182m.

Oftel raps telephone groups

WorldCom, the US telecoms group; Global One, the international consortium, and two UK telephone groups were reprimanded yesterday for not giving UK customers enough information about the quality of their services. Don Cruickshank, director-general of UK telecoms watchdog, Oftel, said the companies had failed voluntarily to publish performance tables of service standards, which would allow customers to choose between them. He warned this raised the likelihood of a European Union directive to enforce full competition. Mr Cruickshank especially criticised Britain's Colt Telecom Group, the Eurobell cable company, WorldCom and Global One, the partnership between Sprint, Deutsche Telekom and France Telecom. Most telecoms groups in Britain publish service performance on issues such as fault repairs, bill accuracy and complaint handling every six months. WorldCom said it would provide the information from 1. January 1998.

C&W to run multimedia first

Cable & Wireless has been given the go-ahead to operate what it said would be the world's first fully interactive multimedia service in Hong Kong before the end of the year. The Hong Kong operation will give customers access to video-on-demand services, music channels and home shopping.

Bovis to push ahead with float despite volatility

Bovis Homes is pushing ahead with its flotation despite the volatility in the stock market. P&O, owner of Bovis, admitted yesterday that it considered postponing the flotation last week when world markets were on the verge of collapse.

The house-builder is scheduled to end its 23-year absence from the stock market on 11 December with an expected price tag of around £300m. Shares in Bovis will be placed with institutions but private investors will be able to subscribe through stockbrokers and independent financial advisers.

The pathfinder prospectus, published yesterday, shows that several directors will receive bonuses to enable them to subscribe for shares at the placing price, which will be fixed a week before trading begins on the stock market. Malcolm Harris, chief executive, will receive a taxable bonus of £173,000, Ron Walford, finance director, will get £94,500 and five other directors will receive bonuses totalling £232,000. All seven executive directors have agreed to apply for additional shares, and employees have the right to apply for a minimum of £500 worth of shares each.

P&O will sell all its shares and new shares are being issued to raise £194m to repay Bovis debts to its former parent. The new public company will be debt-free.

Bovis ranks 12th in the UK league of house-builders, selling 2,456 homes at an average price of £90,100 last year and making an operating profit of £29.4m on a turnover of £267m. Profit before tax was £23.3m.

Mr Harris said the company's best strength was its policy of combining a range of facades and finishes with a handful of basic designs and using standardised components.

It has a landbank of 8,398 sites with planning permission, enough to last for almost three-and-a-half years at last year's building rates, plus options on a further 13,400 sites. In the six months to the end of June it sold 1,097 homes at an average cost of £95,100 and made an operating profit of £14.3m on a turnover of £111m, pushing up the profit margin yet again to 13.1 per cent.

Only three UK house-builders, Redrow, Wilson Bowden and Berkeley, did better.

In South-east England Bovis margins reached 17.4 per cent last year.

– Clifford German

Diabetic tests boost Cortecs

Good test results from a new drug for diabetics sent shares in Cortecs International, the Anglo-Australian biotechnology company, soaring by 15 per cent to close at 203.5p after hitting 235p at one stage yesterday.

The company said trials for its experimental drug, Macrulin, showed "very encouraging" results which "present the real possibility of improving therapy for diabetics". The trials involved six diabetic patients.

Patients taking oral capsules containing Macrulin experienced a decline in their blood sugar levels, Cortecs said. The trial has not been completed yet, but results are due later in the year.

However, some analysts said it was too early to say how meaningful the results were. Andrew Baum, an analyst with Morgan Stanley Dean Witter, said: "I am enormously sceptical of oral insulin. The precise doses required to regulate a patient's blood sugar vary, making the window for an effective dose very small."

Insulin is a naturally occurring hormone needed to process blood sugar into energy. Diabetics are either insensitive to the hormone, or have insufficient quantities of it.

COMPANY RESULTS

	Turnover £	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend
British Airways (I)	4.5bn (4.4bn)	430m (470m)	31p (39.7p)	4.7p (4.25p)
L Gardner (F)	35.3m (22m)	4.4m (2.5m)	21.3p (15.6p)	7.0p (6.0p)
Hewetson (I)	35.8m (26m)	2.18m (728,000)	8.59p (3.48p)	2.25p (0.85p)
Raglan Properties (I)	– (–)	3.4m (1.01m)	1.9p (0.44p)	nil
Scottish Power (I)	1.4bn (1.3bn)	240m (167m)	-11.3p (12.39p)	6.8p (6.17p)
Shanks & McEwan (I)	88.3m (61.4m)	12.7m (11.6m)	4.3p (3.9p)	1.4p (1.3p)
Whitbread (I)	1.6bn (1.5bn)	198.1m (177.5m)	31.12p (27.1p)	6.82p (6.25p)

(F) - Final (I) - Interim

هكذا من الاصل

Pilkington shattered by French rival's plan to expand in Britain

MARKET REPORT

DEREK PAIN
STOCK MARKET REPORTER OF THE YEAR

Another shattering stock market experience for **Pilkington**. For once, a share slump was not due to the group's own shortcomings – it was a threatening move by its major competitor. The shares fell 17p to 131p with a 43.3 million turnover, the biggest for any share. In the glory days before the 1987 crash Pilks traded at more than 300p.

Since then the St Helens-based group has struggled against intense competition and squeezed margins.

Saint Gobain, the French group which has made life so difficult for Pilks, prompted the fall by disclosing it intended to build a flat glass plant in Britain. Such a move was immediately seen as piling more pressure on the St Helens group.

But the French may, at least on the surface, have a rather different agenda. They seem intent on supplying Europe with most of their British glass and could, therefore, be attempting to hedge their position when the single currency arrives.

With British Petroleum and Marks & Spencer going euro when EMU starts in 1999, Saint Gobain could be taking advantage of the continuing availability of sterling.

The French group, which is Europe's largest glass-maker, hopes to be in production here by the end of 1999.

The French invasion comes as Pilks, under Paolo Scaroni, its new chief executive, is undertaking a savage cost-cutting exercise.

Mr Scaroni probably prevented Pilks shares falling even further by acquiring 300,000 at 132p, near the day's low. He heard about the fall at a meeting in Italy. "A terrific buying opportunity," he is said to have exclaimed before contacting his stockbroker.

The rest of the market had another depressingly uneventful day. Footsie meandered between a 50.2 points gain and a 34.1 loss, ending 10.9 higher at 4,908.3.

Supporting shares made progress. Domestic and overseas interest rates remained one of the market's major concerns. Among blue chips higher were **National Power** and **PowerGen**, reflecting Credit Lyonnais Laing buy advice.

There is continuing unhappiness with order-driven trading, which suffered a computer failure at the opening, when trading is now relatively thin. A late rogue trade in **Pearson**, the media group, illustrated one of the new order's drawbacks. Pearson shares, according to the closing quote, were up 31p at 790p; the spread was a remarkable 685p to 820p. A proposed trade of 108 shares at 805.5p created some of the confusion.

Although technically the new order has been a success, the cry for a revamp, extending beyond the current fine tuning, is growing. Private client stockbrokers are often at a loss to provide realistic prices for their clients.

Much of the action was in the quote-driven MidCap shares. Besides Pilkington, **Vickers**, on the audacious approach from **Mayflower**, rose 20.5p to 248p although Mayflower fell 15p to 189.5p.

Allied Colloids scored the best MidCap gain, up 14 per cent to 117p when the company quashed fears interim figures would be disappointing. The shares hit a 12-month low on worries the strength of sterling had damaged the group.

Tullow Oil improved a further 3p to 126p on a mixture of bid and exploration hopes and motor dealer **Charles Sidney** firmed 1p to 86.5p as Sanderson Bramall emerged as the bidder with a £37.4m offer.

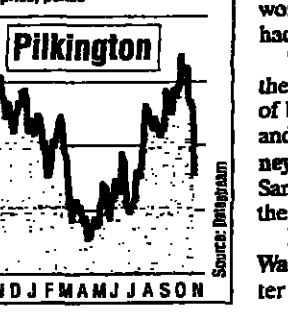
Recruitment group **Robert Walters** rose 18.5p to 445p after a £5.34m Australian acquisition prompted stockbroker Collins Stewart to lift next year's profits estimate from £9.5m to £10.4m.

Insurance broker **Willis Corroon** held at 124p as Nikko cut its profits forecast from £95.5m to £89m.

Cortecs International introduced a little comfort to the drugs sector, gaining 27p to 203.5p as its oral insulin for diabetics enjoyed successful phase II tests. **Kay's Food** rose 0.75p to 2.75p on the Kevin Leech stake and **Devro**, the sausage skin group, sizzled 14p to 388.5p following ABN Amro Hoare Govett support.

Ushers of Trowbridge, the brewer which came to market at 110p in March, is the latest to produce a profits warning. The shares fell 6p to 94p with a big trade, 489,000, going through at 99.5p before the announcement.

Share Spotlight
share price, pence



TAKING STOCK

Transport Development is attracting attention. The shares improved a further 2.5p to 203.5p, just below their 12-month high. They have gently recovered from the 162.5p low hit in August on disappointment with interim figures. There is talk of a second-half improvement and the inevitable bid speculation is around.

Utilitec, a gas and water services group in the red last year, should produce profits of £3.65m this year and £5.2m next, believes Charterhouse Tilney. The shares, which have moved between 100p and 36.5p since March, fell 1p to 43.5p.

Boustead, the cash shell, is due to return to market later *this month following its* takeover of a Hong Kong construction group. The shares were last traded at 16p.

Share Price Data

Prices are in sterling except where stated. The yield is the latest twelve months' declared gross dividend as a percentage of the share price. The price/earnings (P/E) ratio is the shareprice divided by last year's earnings per share, excluding extraordinary items but including exceptionals. Other details: Ex rights; x Ex-dividend; a Ex-all; s Suspended; p Partly Paid; np Nil Paid; ^AIM. Gilt Prices are Bloomberg Generics. Source: Bloomberg

The Independent Teleshare - Tel. 0891 - 201 200

To access Real-Time Share Prices, 24 hours a day, call 0891 - 201 200.

You will hear the current FTSE 100 Index followed by a Stock Market Summary Report.

You can interrupt at any time to hear a Real-Time Share Price by keying * plus a 4-digit 'code' from the listings on this page.

To get a Membership Number to set-up your Portfolio facility, please call the Help Desk on 0171-729-8288 (during business hours).

For help with the service, including the Portfolio facility, call the Help Desk on 0171-729-8288.

(TIS plc, London EC2A 4PJ). 0891 calls cost 50p per minute.

Seaq volume: 819.1m trades 47,588 Gilts index 99.90 -0.11

Market Leaders: Top 20 volumes at 5:00pm

Stock	Vol	Stock	Vol	Stock	Vol	Stock	Vol
Pilkington	43.04m	Centrica	16.61m	Redland	12.02m	Smithkline Beech	10.19m
Vodafone Grp	19.85m	Grand Met	16.50m	Lloyds TSB	11.86m	Sainsburys	9.45m
Gen Elec	19.58m	Shell Transport	13.80m	BTR	11.41m	Marks & Spencer	8.85m
ASDA Grp	18.57m	Brit Petroleum	13.70m	Brit Steel	11.18m	BG	8.65m
Wiggins Grp	18.15m	Rolls Royce	12.10m	Brit Telecom	10.75m	Tesco	8.41m

FTSE 100 Index hour by hour

Open	4897.4		11:00	4944.8	Up 47.4	15:00	4885.7 Down 11.7
9:00	4895.3	Down 2.1	12:00	4935.2	Up 37.8	16:00	4881.5 Down 15.9
10:00	4937.6	Up 40.2	13:00	4946.6	Up 49.2	Close	4908.3 Up 10.9

14:00	4914.3	Up 16.9	

BATTERIES
ORIGINAL NOKIA Accessories DIRECT
HANDS FREE KITS · IN-CAR CHARGERS · CARRY CASES · CAR KITS
ORIGINAL NOKIA ACCESSORIES
Why risk cheap imitations when you can enhance the performance of your Nokia mobile phone with an original Nokia accessory for far less than you might think. All accessories, all models normally despatched within 24 hours. What could be more convenient than that?
SPECIAL CHRISTMAS OFFERS
Price Pledge - lowest prices guaranteed
To order or for free colour catalogue
FREEPHONE 0800 0381138
WEEKDAYS 8.30 - 8.30 WEEKENDS 9.00 - 5.00
ALL ACCESSORIES • ALL MODELS NORMALLY DESPATCHED WITHIN 24 HOURS
REF. 1013

Government Securities

Stock	Price	Chg(p)
Recent Issues		
Aggreko	166.50	2.50
Bristol & West Pld	121.75	0.00
Cammell Laird	171.50	9.00
Gremlin Gp	165.00	3.50
Metroline	185.00	0.00
MEPC (Jersey)	602.50	5.00
Northern Rock	484.50	6.00
Severn Trent B	33.00	0.00
Thorn B	19.50	0.00

source: **Bloomberg**
www.bloomberg.com

Euro will shake up the Continent more than the UK. Myth or fact?

DIANE COYLE ON WHY BRITAIN MUST STAY IN THE RACE

Many myths achieve the status of hallowed facts when they have been repeated often enough, and few are more hallowed than those concerning national economic performance.

Take the notion that there are two distinct varieties of capitalism – the market-loving, equity-financed Anglo-Saxon variety and the corporatist, bank-financed Rhineland version. It's a neat contrast. But it isn't true in at least one key respect. German and French companies do not, as a group, finance their investment through loans from supportive banks keen to establish a long-term relationship with them. Nor do US and UK companies in the aggregate raise funds for investment from the stock market. Indeed, British firms raise more net finance than German ones via bank debt.

On the other hand, there are tremendous national differences in how well companies perform in terms of profitability or return on capital: those short-termist Anglo-Saxons do significantly better than the Germans or Japanese. Investment in Britain has been far more worthwhile for at least the past six years. This in turn explains the much bigger stock market gains in the US and UK over that period, even if the listed companies do not actually raise much of their net finance from issuing equities.

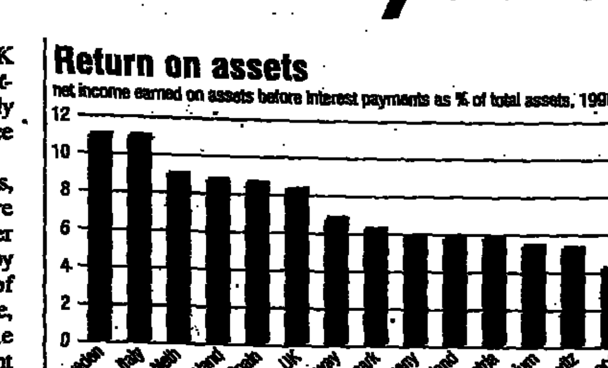
These facts – the real ones, as opposed to the myths – are presented in a fascinating paper written for Merrill Lynch by David Miles, Professor of Economics at Imperial College, London. They raise the prospect that the big adjustment to the single currency when Britain eventually joins will have to be made, not by a laggardly UK economy, but by badly performing German and French companies. And, if there is an adjustment, it could give a big one-off boost to the continental stock markets.

Back to the figures first of all. Measured by market capitalisation, the UK makes up a higher proportion of the value of Europe's top 500 companies than any other country, with 31 per cent. By balance-sheet value of assets, it has 22 per cent, just ahead of Germany and France. Drugs companies, banks, utilities, insurers and oil and gas producers are among the biggest companies. So it is groups such as Glaxo Wellcome and BP, SmithKline Beecham and BT, along with two Anglo-Dutch companies, Shell and Unilever, that make up the biggest elements of Britain's corporate might.

Looking at the corporate sector as a whole in each country, there is no evidence of any significant difference in how net new finance for investment is raised. German companies actually have the lowest share of debt to market capitalisation in Europe, and it is not significantly different from gearing in the UK, according to the statistical tests. Germany's big corporate bond market, which dwarfs the UK's, consists 99 per cent of asset-backed securities issued by banks. Bonds and bank loans are an insignificant source of funds outside the financial sector.

Return on assets

net income earned on assets before interest payments as % of total assets, 1996



The reason the differences in equity versus bond financing turn out to be insignificant is that in all countries the corporate sector uses internal funds, retained profits, to fund investment. Internal finance is hugely dominant. In the aggregate, funds raised externally are matched more or less by the acquisition of financial assets, although of course some individual companies raise external funds and different companies acquire the assets. These flows are what is mediated by the bond and equity markets and the banks.

So, over the years 1970-94, bank finance accounted for 11.9 per cent of the net funds raised by Germany's corporate sector, just higher than the 11.1 per cent in the US, but lower than the 14.6 per cent in the UK. Japanese firms did raise more this way, at 26.7 per cent of total net finance. Both corporate Germany and Japan raise small amounts via equities, but corporate Britain and America repaid share capital to a small extent. German firms made net repayments of corporate bonds. Only in the US did net bond financing amount to anything noticeable, at 15.4 per cent of the total – presumably thanks to the junk bond era. The patterns have altered slightly in the 1990s. British companies have raised net equity financing and seen a fall in the share of funds internally generated. Bond financing has dropped off in the US, and bank financing in Japan, with the slack taken up by internal funds. But the overall picture remains a reality conforming not at all to stereotype.

If countries are alike in how they raise new finance, mainly by retaining profits, they differ in the use to which they put that capital. Professor Miles finds that on any measure of performance the Rhineland capitalists are the dullards. Whether measured by earnings yield or return on assets, British companies have performed best since 1991, along with the Dutch, Irish and Swedish corporate sectors. Germany, France, Belgium and Austria have competed for bottom place. The return on assets in the UK, at 8.23 per cent from 1991-96, was more than twice France's 4.03 per cent, and much better too than Germany's 5.84 per cent. The difference might well reflect industrial structure, with Britain having more companies in the best-performing sectors such as utilities, retailing, leisure and drugs, and fewer in weaker performers such as cars and aerospace. If true, this explanation sheds an interesting light on the sale to foreigners of the British car industry.

What does this myth-demolition imply for the future? The launch of the single currency is likely to trigger some significant restructuring, and the assumption has always been that because Britain is so different from the continental economies, Britain would have to adjust most. But it might be that the introduction of the euro, and a genuine single market, delivers more of a jolt to France and Germany. For example, the powerful home-country bias in equity investment by the big institutions will diminish, and funds will make allocations based on sector or company comparisons but not on a national basis. The pressure will be for the worse-performing companies to buck up their act. The German and French and Belgian corporate sectors might tend to become more profitable.

According to the paper, there will be a separate and enormous boost to the German stock market. At present, company pension funds are heavily invested in their own company, but they will increasingly diversify to invest in other companies. It makes no sense anyway for workers' pensions to be mainly invested in the company for which they work, putting all their financial eggs in the one basket.

The idea of portfolio diversification is likely to catch on generally with continental funds. German companies will therefore lose an internal source of funds and will have to fill the gap externally, which could represent a huge boost to the stock market.

Thirdly, transactions costs in Europe's stock markets will probably converge on the cheapest – London's – under the euro. Other markets could see a fall of 10 to 25 per cent in dealing spreads.

What it all adds up to is a boost for activity and share prices on the continental bourses during the first years of the single currency as the rest of Europe tries to catch up to Britain's secret corporate success. Only a hardened Europhobe would see this as another reason for the UK to stay outside the single currency, though; you can only keep ahead if you stay in the race.

PEOPLE & BUSINESS

LEA PATERSON

Now here's a piece of advice for anyone who is scared of flying – forget all that guff about hypnosis, chatting to the pilot en route or knocking back a couple of stiff drinks before getting on the plane. If you really want to rid yourself of your phobia once and for all, make sure your family has homes scattered all over Europe and then have a go at starting up your own airline company.

Well that was certainly the tack chosen by **Stelios Haji-Ioannou**, son of millionaire Greek shipping magnate **Loucas Haji-Ioannou** and founder of no-frills airline easyJet.

"I was scared of flying when I was a young boy," he told me yesterday, "I think I got it from my mother." But the frequent-flying young Mr Haji-Ioannou soon got over his fears. "I was flying very often," he said, "my family had homes all over Europe".

So what does Mr Haji-Ioannou do when he isn't starting up new easyJet routes – most recently Liverpool-Nice and Liverpool-Amsterdam – or co-ordinating his campaign against any attempt by British Airways to launch a rival "no-frills" service – dubbed "BA Cheapo" by easyJet in a recent ad? Well, he flies, apparently. "I try and fly on easyJet about three or four times a week," he confided. "It's the best way to find out what customers think." He also tries to fly to his house in Nice as often as he can.

Aside from flying, Mr Haji-Ioannou is also very fond of his boat, moored in Greece. There's only one problem though – easyJet doesn't fly to Greece.

"I have to fly with the competition, unfortunately," he said. And how does Mr Haji-Ioannou find his rival, BA? "Well, I interact a lot better with the pilots than the cabin crew," he said. "I frequently go into the cockpit and have a good chat with the pilot."

It doesn't look, however, as if **Bob Ayling**, head of BA, and friends will have the pleasure of Mr Haji-Ioannou's company on his trips back home to Greece for too much longer. "Give me a year and we'll be flying to Athens," said easyJet's chief yesterday.

Former Abbey National manager **Garry Brown** woke up to a pleasant surprise recently – a cheque for £25,000 for "blowing the whistle" on fraudulent conduct by a senior director.

Mr Brown, who has since left the company, received the unpublicised and unexpected gift after **Mike Doyle**, marketing services director, was jailed for eight years in July for defrauding the bank of an estimated £1m.

Mr Brown, who has since worked briefly for Volkswagen and the AA, said yesterday that he would spend his cheque on a back-packing journey around South America. "The money was quite unexpected. I didn't do it for that," he said.

Chris Conway, head of Digital Equipment, seems to be picking up jobs at a fine old pace. Only a few weeks ago, Mr Conway started work as a non-executive director at Granville Holdings. And earlier this week it was announced that the 53-year-old IT chief was to sit on the board of Manchester-based industrial services group, Brammer. It seems that Brammer hopes to benefit from Mr Conway's experience of both product distribution and European business.

Mr Conway's first day at work at Brammer was on Tuesday. And how was it, being the new boy on the block? "Fine," he said, "very interesting." There was a Brammer board meeting, apparently, much of which was spent discussing the French lorry drivers' strike. "The truck drivers look pretty determined this time," he noted.

You wouldn't think, on the face of it, that the softly spoken Mr Conway had much in common with the 30-year-old colourful Mr Haji-Ioannou. But a love of boats, it seems, links the two. "I am a keen leisure sailor," said Mr Conway yesterday. Mr Conway, unlike Mr Haji-Ioannou, does not have the dilemma of which airline to choose when he decides to take the boat out for the day – his boat is moored between Portsmouth and Southampton.

Congratulations to **Richard Kersley** and **Steve Wright**, equity strategists at BZW and now footsore members of the marathon runners club. They both completed the course in New York last weekend, although Mr Kersley gamely admitted it looked touch and go before his wife kicked him round the last six miles or so. No such cajoling was required for Mr Wright, aka action man, who strolled round in under three hours, finishing around 600th out of 30,000.

Both are now limbering up for the possibly more arduous challenge of individual interviews with their new paymasters at Crédit Suisse. It remains to be seen whether Barclays' promise to match the charity fund-raising effort pound for pound (liability, about £2,000) will be assumed by BZW's new owners.

Foreign Exchange Rates

Country	Sterling Spot	1 month	3 month	Dollar Spot	1 month	3 month	D-Mark Spot
UK	1.0000			0.5964	0.5972	0.5988	0.3458
Australia	2.3836	2.3810	2.3766	1.4216	1.4220	1.4232	0.8243
Austria	20.352	20.320	20.259	12.138	12.136	12.132	7.0384
Belgium	59.592	59.411	59.060	35.540	35.483	35.368	20.608
Canada	2.3465	2.3396	2.3264	1.3994	1.3973	1.3932	0.8115
Denmark	11.006	10.972	10.910	6.5630	6.5528	6.5332	3.8056
ECU	1.4838	1.4604	1.4535	1.1455	1.1465	1.1489	0.8166
Finland	8.6940	8.6649	8.6128	5.1851	5.1750	5.1577	3.0066
France	9.682	9.650	9.590	5.7741	5.7636	5.7429	3.3482
Germany	2.8916	2.8823	2.8647	1.7245	1.7214	1.7155	1.0000
Greece	452.55	466.98	463.89	269.90	278.90	277.80	156.50
Hong Kong	12.965	13.013	13.092	7.7325	7.7720	7.8400	4.4838
Ireland	1.1111	1.1102	1.1079	1.5091	1.5082	1.5073	0.8751
Italy	2829.2	2828.1	2824.1	1687.3	1689.0	1691.2	978.42
Japan	208.51	205.31	202.88	123.16	122.62	121.49	71.416
Malaysia	5.5249	5.5317	5.5632	3.2950	3.3038	3.3315	1.9106
Mexico	13.674			8.1550			4.7288
Netherlands	3.2596	3.2490	3.2290	1.9440	1.9404	1.9336	1.1273
New Zealand	2.6819	2.6772	2.6658	0.6252	1.5989	1.5964	0.3625
Norway	11.797	11.759	11.694	7.0355	7.0232	7.0028	4.0796
Portugal	294.90	294.44	293.36	175.88	175.85	175.68	101.96
Saudi Arabia	6.2886	6.2815	6.2674	3.7505	3.7516	3.7532	2.1748
Singapore	2.6325	2.6380	2.6301	1.5700	1.5755	1.5750	0.9104
South Africa	8.0794	8.1450	8.2601	4.8185	4.8645	4.9465	2.7941
Spain	244.07	243.62	242.68	145.56	145.50	145.33	84.405
Sweden	12.616	12.585	12.527	7.5242	7.5181	7.5017	4.3630
Switzerland	2.3614	2.3503	2.3291	1.4083	1.4037	1.3947	0.8166
US	1.6767			1.0000			0.5799

Other Spot Rates

Country	Sterling	Dollar	Country	Sterling	Dollar
Argentina	1.6767	1.0000	Oman	0.6455	0.3850
Brazil	1.8504	1.1036	Pakistan	73.861	44.050
China	13.887	8.2822	Philippines	58.686	35.000
Czech Rep	55.135	32.882	Poland	5.7798	3.4470
Egypt	5.6939	3.3958	Qatar	6.1042	3.6405
Ghana	378	224	Russia	9871.0	5887.0
Hungary	327.65	195.41	South Korea	1613.2	962.10
India	60.782	36.250	Taiwan	51.057	30.450
Indonesia	5600.3	3340.0	Thailand	65.812	39.250
Kuwait	0.5081	0.3030	Turkey	308166	183800
Nigeria	137.16	81.800	UAE	6.1579	3.6725

Interest Rates

UK		Germany		US		Japan	
Base	7.00%	Discount	2.50%	Prime	8.50%	Discount	0.50%
France		Lombard	4.50%	Discount	5.00%	Belgium	
Intervention	3.30%	Canada		Fed Funds	5.69%	Discount	2.75%
Italy		Prime	5.25%	Spain		Central	3.30%
Discount	6.25%	Discount	3.75%	10-d Repo	5.00%	Switzerland	
Netherlands		Denmark		Sweden		Discount	1.00%
SpAdvance	3.30%	Discount	3.50%	Repo(Ave)	4.10%	Lombard	3.63%

Bond Yields

Country	3 mth	chg	1 yr	chg	2 yr	chg	5 yr	chg	10 yr	chg
Australia	...	0.00	4.80	0.01	5.07	0.00	5.66	-0.01	6.10	-0.03
Belgium	3.82	0.00	4.20	0.02	4.41	0.06	5.16	0.04	5.77	0.03
Canada	3.84	-0.03	4.21	-0.04	4.46	-0.02	5.07	-0.02	5.57	-0.01
ECU	4.63	0.01	4.81	0.01	4.72	0.01	5.25	0.03	5.79	0.01
France	0.00	0.00	3.86	0.04	4.51	0.31	5.04	0.05	5.64	0.03
Germany	3.70	0.01	4.06	0.02	4.34	0.05	5.16	0.05	5.62	0.03
Italy	6.02	0.03	5.80	0.00	5.57	0.03	5.75	0.03	6.23	0.01
Japan	0.36	-0.02	0.44	0.00	0.50	0.00	1.10	-0.02	1.79	-0.02
N'lands	3.66	0.01	4.10	0.02	4.39	0.03	5.09	0.04	5.60	0.02
Spain	4.95	-0.01	4.85	0.01	4.95	0.04	5.44	0.04	6.05	0.04
Sweden	4.21	0.01	4.98	0.04	5.16	0.05	5.97	0.05	6.43	0.03
S'land	1.99	0.02	2.29	0.04	2.01	0.00	2.83	0.00	3.61	0.01
UK	6.85	0.00	7.62	0.05	6.94	0.01	6.73	0.03	6.59	0.05
US	5.12	0.14	5.14	-0.01	5.71	-0.01	5.83	0.00	5.93	-0.02

Money Market Rates

	Overnight Bid	Offer	1 week Bid	Offer	1 month Bid	Offer	3 months Bid	Offer	6 months Bid	Offer	1 year Bid	Offer
Treasury Bills					6.95	6.85	6.95	6.85				
LIBOR												
Domestic Depos	7.19	7.31	7.19	7.31	7.25	7.31	7.34	7.41	7.41	7.47	7.50	7.56
Eurosterling Deps	7.25	7.25	7.25	7.31	7.28	7.34	7.38	7.44	7.44	7.50	7.50	7.53
Eligible Bank Bills					7.05	6.99	7.12	7.04	7.12	7.04		
Sterling CDs					7.29	7.23	7.36	7.28	7.40	7.32	7.46	7.40
Eurodollar CDs					5.55		5.72		5.77			
ECU Deposits					4.44	4.56	4.50	4.63	4.53	4.56		

www.bloomberg.com Source: Bloomberg

Liffe Financial Futures

Contract		Settlement	High	Low	Est floor volume	Open interest
Long Gilt	Dec-97	118.34	118.41	118.25	52484	164209
German Bund	Dec-97	102.44	102.54	102.35	102639	255614
US Long Bond	Dec-97	117.22	-	-	-	-
Italian Bond	Dec-97	111.71	111.83	111.36	26730	112672
Japan Govt Bd	Dec-97	130.70	130.80	130.70	1449	-
3 Mth Sterling	Dec-97	92.59	92.60	92.58	20366	133348
	Mar-98	92.53	92.55	92.52	13133	118440
3 Mth Euromark	Dec-97	96.22	96.24	96.21	35539	306004
	Mar-98	95.94	95.99	95.94	33788	317330
3 Mth Eurolira	Dec-97	93.68	93.71	93.68	10476	109950
	Mar-98	94.42	94.45	94.42	7433	107029
3 Mth Euroyen	Dec-97	99.48				
3 Mth Euroswiss	Dec-97	97.94	97.97	97.93	5355	76198
	Mar-98	97.76	97.79	97.75	6240	51165
3 Mth ECU	Dec-97	95.37	95.38	95.37	350	9562
	Mar-98	95.27	95.30	95.27	176	6505
FTSE 100	Dec-97	4925.00	4967.00	4867.00	11323	66296

Liffe FTSE 100 Index Option

Settlement Price: 4908.30

Series	Nov Call	Imp Vol	Put	Imp Vol	Dec Call	Put	Jan Call	Put	Feb Call	Put
4850	276	38	68	38	371	143	410	178	457	196
4900	240	36	82	37	334	156	377	195	427	216
4950	204	35	97	37	302	176	350	214	398	237
5000	171	35	116	36	272	197	321	235	370	259

Energy

* at 5:30pm

Brent Crude($/barrel) IPE	Last*	Chg	Vol	Gas oil($/tonne) IPE	Close	Chg	Vol	WTI Crude($/barrel) NYM	Last*	Chg	Products($/tonne) Spot CIF NW Eur	
Nov	19.79	19.79	10066	Nov	179.75	-1.25	4236	Dec	20.64	-0.07	Gasoline 95	200.00
Dec	19.63	0.01	8754	Dec	180.75	-1.00	3891	Jan	20.80	-0.06	Naphtha	197.50
Jan	19.73	0.07	9900	Jan	181.50	-1.00	1735	Feb	20.85	-0.04	Gasoil	183.00
								Mar	20.80	0.04	Fuel Oil (3.5%)	103.00

Commodity Indices

	Base date	Last	Chg	Goldman Sachs %chg	31 Dec	%chgYTD (at 5:30pm)
Index	1970=100	205.00	0.21	0.10	215.26	-4.77
Agricultural	1970=100	239.47	1.24	0.52	231.23	3.56
Energy	1983=100	79.36	-0.10	-0.13	85.86	-7.57
Ind Metals	1977=100	169.81	0.00	0.00	168.79	0.60
Livestock	1970=100	178.70	-0.09	-0.05	191.03	-6.45
Prec Metals	1973=100	408.48	0.12	0.03	463.54	-11.88

Industrial Metals

LME ($/tonne)	Cash		Chg	3 month		Chg	LME stocks	Chg
Aluminium HG	1606.5	1607.5	14.50	1633	1634	13	735800	-3550
Aluminium Alloy	1488	1493	8.00	1493	1495	10	47100	-280
Copper A	1976	1977	8.00	1990	1991	8	346175	975
Lead	588	589	-7.00	600	601	-7	115600	-75
Nickel	6090	6100	0.00	6180	6185	5	66792	-66
Tin	5595	5605	0.00	5590	5595	-10	9680	-140
Zinc	1217	1218	-14.50	1237	1238	-15	466075	5100

Precious Metals

pm fix/$ per oz		Day's chg	Year's chg	pm fix/£ per oz		Day's chg	Year's chg	Coins ($)		Year's chg
Platinum	406.50	-1.50	25.50	Platinum	242.80	0.10	10.05	Krugrands	311.35	-66.65
Palladium	210.00	1.00	93.75	Palladium	124.52	0.17	53.52	Sovs	73.13	
Silver	4.85	0.01	0.02	Silver	2.89	0.01	-0.04	Nobles	395.05	
Gold	313.50	-1.85	-64.50					Maple Leaf	325.56	-65.19

Agricultural

* at 5:30pm

Cocoa LIFFE	£/tonne	Coffee LIFFE	$/tonne	Barley LIFFE	£/tonne	Potatoes LIFFE	£/tonne	Lge Potatoes ATA	$/25k kg
Dec97	1042.00	Nov97	1533.00	Nov97	76.90	Nov97	40.00	Nov97	720.50
Mar98	1070.00	Jan98	1551.00	Jan98	79.50	Mar98	82.00	Feb98	725.00
May98	1087.00	Mar98	1554.00	Mar98	82.00	Apr98	127.50	Apr98	729.50
Vol:	6712	Vol:	10309	Vol:	3	Vol:	307	Vol:	0

White Sugar* LIFFE	$/tonne	Freight LIFFE	$10/kpt	Wheat LIFFE	$/tonne	Corn* CBOT	Cents/bshl	Soya Beans* CBOT	$/5k bshls
Dec97	310.00	Oct97	...	Nov97	83.00	Dec97	281.00	Nov97	23.00
Mar98	315.20	Nov97	1272.00	Jan98	85.00	Mar98	290.50	Jan98	...
May98	318.00	Jan98	1345.00	Mar98	87.00	May98	296.75	Mar98	26.20
Vol:	3025	Vol:	135	Vol:	348	Vol:	0	Vol:	727

Other Softs

at 5:30pm

Dec	Live Cattle	(CME)	$/40k lb	66.72	Dec	White Maize	(SAF)	$/100 mt	10.20
Feb	Pork Bellies	(CME)	$/40k lb	63.70	Nov	Rubber	(TCM)	Y/5k kg	94.10
Jan	Orange Juice	(CTN)	$/15k lb	75.45	Dec	Cotton	(CTN)	$/50k lb	72.26
Dec	Milk	(CSC)	$/50k lb	12.25	Nov	Crude Palm	(KLC)	$/25 tn	1800.00
Dec	Oats	(CBT)	$/5k bsh	156.25	Dec	Soya Oil	(CBT)	$/60k lb	25.46
Jan	Flax	(WCE)	$/20 tn	331.00	Nov	Woollen Yarn	(TCM)	$/500kg	1255.00

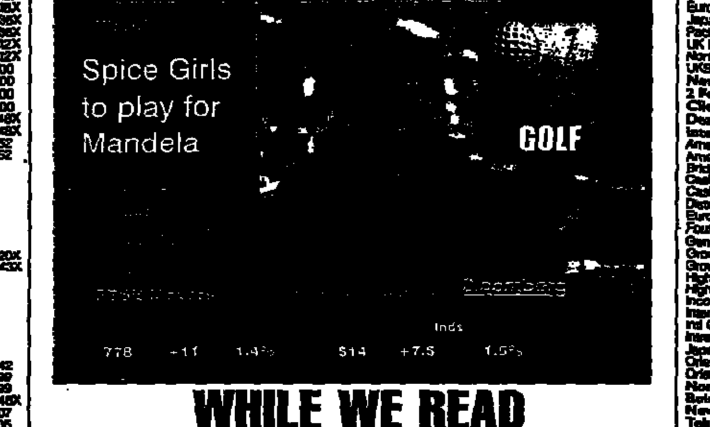
Latest Unit Trust Prices

Fund	Sell	Buy	Yld
AIB Govett Trust Ltd			
4 Battle Bridge Lane, London SE1 2HR			
Tel: 0171 378 7979			
American Strategy	260.97	278.78	0.00
Cash	98.1	98.6	5.75X
European Strategy	139.55	149.24	0.00
FTSE Mid 250 Index	98.52	103.22	2.11
Geared UK Index	22.35	23.80	6.75
Greater China	229.54	245.54	0.00
Intl Growth	168.84	180.57	0.00
Japan General	112.70	119.30	0.00X
Monthly Income	41.07	43.93	8.72X
Pacific Strategy	123.53	132.11	0.00
UK Bear	4.94	5.32	5.35
UK Equity Safeguard	108.22	116.76	2.47
UK Index	16.69	17.57	5.25
UK Safeguard	139.12	148.29	0.00
UK Small Cos	77.35	82.72	0.48X
US Index	22.29	23.48	4.00
AXA Equity & Law Unit Trust Managers			
AXA Equity & Law Hse, Corporation St, Coventry CV1 1GD			
Tel: 01203 553231			
Balanced Acc	71.50	76.05	2.52
Balanced Inc	65.36	69.53	2.52
Brit Excell	112.80	119.80	2.32
BritishFndmtlsAcc	140.30	149.80	4.84
BritishFndmtlsInc	90.35	96.11	4.54
Europe	432.70	460.30	0.61
Gilts/Fxd Int Acc	228.70	241.50	5.70
Gilts/Fxd Int Inc	95.24	100.60	5.70
Global Opps	110.30	117.30	0.30
High Inc Acc	1029.00	1094.00	4.54
High Inc Inc	528.50	562.20	4.54
Japan	35.38	37.30	0.00
North America	426.20	453.50	0.00
Pacific Basin	293.60	312.50	1.53
UK Gwth Acc	565.00	601.00	2.49
UK Gwth Inc	357.20	379.90	2.49
Barclays Funds Limited			
11 Broadway, Stratford, London, E15 4BJ			
Customer Help Desk 0181 522 4600			
Balanced Trusts			
Income Funds			
Cash	100.60	100.60	6.55X
Cash Acc	130.40	130.40	6.55
Income Builder	79.62	84.79	4.86
International Income	82.47	87.73	1.53
Balanced Funds			
Exempt	101.80	108.30	2.21X
500	619.20	658.30	1.89
General	392.40	417.50	1.56X
Property	269.60	289.30	5.49
Trustee	274.80	292.30	1.82
Growth Funds UK			
Capital	174.90	186.10	1.50
FTSE 100	126.50	134.30	1.84
Growth Acc	546.60	581.50	1.53
Smlr Cos Acc	73.94	78.57	2.24
Smlr Cos Inc	61.39	65.46	2.24
Growth Funds - Overseas			
America	223.10	236.90	0.00X
AmericanRecvyAcc	153.90	163.70	0.00
Japan Acc	102.90	109.70	0.00
Japan Inc	101.70	107.50	0.00
Japan Spec Sits	47.70	50.53	0.00
Worldwide	211.10	224.10	0.74
Barclays Investment Portfolios (1200)F			
High Income Inc	48.97	50.03	7.10
Managed Income	48.45	50.09	7.10
ManagedGth&Income	46.20	49.07	4.50
Managed Growth	45.48	48.57	0.50
Barclays Global Investors Funds			
PO Box 11828 London E15 4UG			
Brokerline: 0800 731 2443			
Income Funds			
Distribution	127.10	132.70	5.16
Equity Income	168.10	172.20	4.23X
Gilt & Fixed Int	62.87	64.87	7.33
International Fixed Int	98.69	102.30	6.26
InternationalFixedIntAcc	125.20	129.70	6.26
Growth Funds - UK			
UK Growth	502.50	534.50	1.60
UK Growth Acc	502.50	534.50	1.60
Gwth & Inc Acc	110.00	117.00	1.49
Gwth & Inc Inc	511.30	544.00	1.49X
Growth Funds - Overseas			
European Growth	228.60	243.00	0.66
European Gwth Acc	251.40	266.10	0.66
Far Eastern Growth	127.70	135.80	0.66
Far Eastern Gwth Acc	215.50	229.30	0.66
Baring Fund Managers Ltd			
PO Box 156, 155 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 3YS			
Enq: 0171 762 5450, Dealing: 0171 214 1004			
American Growth	173.50	184.40	0.00
American Smlr Cos	173.50	184.20	0.00
Eastern	195.50	207.70	0.30
Emerg Mkts Ex	70.10	72.74	0.60X
Equity Income	121.30	129.30	4.00X
European Growth	440.30	460.80	0.60
European Select	432.60	459.70	0.60
Exempt	117.70	120.60	2.80
Exempt Fixed Int	118.00	118.00	6.50X
German Growth	104.50	110.80	0.50
Global Bond	73.05	76.82	4.80
Global Growth	165.30	176.50	0.40
Income Plus	53.68	54.07	7.80X
Japan Growth	134.30	142.30	0.00
Japan Sunrise	91.49	96.80	0.00
Korea	34.74	37.70	0.00
Portfolio Acc	328.60	350.40	2.00
Portfolio Inc	170.20	181.40	2.00
Select Managers	93.63	100.10	1.00
UK Growth	128.50	136.30	3.00
UK Growth & Inc	80.47	81.18	4.20X
UK Smlr Cos	118.70	126.80	1.90X
Charity Fund			
OverseasGwthExempt	73.73	74.54	0.10
Friends Provident Unit Trust Managers Ltd			
United Kingdom Hse, Castle St, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP1 3SH			
Enq: 01722 715834, Dealing: 01722 715835			
FP Managed Portfolio Service			
CapGwthIncAcc	140.10	148.00	2.66
CapGwthIncInc	128.40	137.80	2.66
GlobalGwth	147.70	150.70	0.57X
OpenCapGwth	142.60	151.80	0.10
OpenCapGwthAcc	134.80	143.30	3.69
OpnCapGthIncAcc	147.80	157.30	3.66
FP Unit Trusts			
Amer Smlr Cos	228.80	244.10	0.00
American	76.35	81.18	0.00
American Acc	85.57	90.96	0.00
Asian Gwth	191.30	204.00	0.00
Asian Gwth Acc	199.70	213.00	0.00
Australian	431.10	459.80	0.00
Australian Acc	481.20	523.80	0.00
Equity Acc	1233.00	1315.00	1.96X
Equity Dist	540.20	576.60	1.96X
EthicUKEqExAcc	125.10	126.10	2.90
EthicUKEqExInc	124.10	124.70	2.80
Euro Gwth	362.30	386.40	0.00
Eurpn Gwth Acc	397.00	423.40	0.00
Income	70.33	75.01	4.44
Income Acc	253.30	272.20	4.44
IntlUKSmCosAcc	125.80	131.70	1.44
IntlUKSmCosInc	122.90	126.60	1.44
Intl Bond	56.44	58.72	3.59
Intl Bond Acc	161.00	170.30	3.59
Intl Gwth	41.90	44.69	0.04X
Intl Gwth Acc	81.75	85.66	0.04X
JpneseSmCosAcc	181.20	193.20	0.00
Monthly Distrb	84.78	90.43	4.82X
Monthly Distrb Acc	161.90	172.30	4.82X
Pacific Basin Acc	178.50	190.40	0.02X
SterlingDeposit Inc	100.50	100.50	6.16X
SterlingDepositAcc	121.50	121.50	6.16X
Stewardship	483.00	515.30	1.36X
Stewardship Acc	618.30	658.50	1.36X
Stewardship Inc	78.21	83.42	5.12X
Stewardship Inc Acc	114.00	121.50	5.12X
Stewardship N Am	168.00	169.50	0.00
Stewardship N Am Acc	171.10	182.40	0.00
Tokyo Acc	67.44	71.98	0.00
Tokyo Inc	66.76	71.21	0.00
UK Focus	50.71	54.09	1.48X
UK Focus Acc	63.40	67.62	1.48X
UK Growth Acc	495.20	528.20	1.52
UK Growth Inc	241.00	257.00	1.52
For Govett (John) Unit Management Ltd			
please see under AIB Govett Unit Trusts			
HSBC Unit Trust Management Ltd			
6 Bevis Marks, London EC3A 7QP			
Advisers: 0800 181890			
Investors: 0800 289505			
Dealing: 0171 955 5055			
Benson	113.60	120.90	1.20X
Elm	97.50	102.90	2.43X
Benson Fund initial charge 6 per cent			
Elm Growth initial charge 6.25 per cent			
Legal & General (UT Managers) Ltd			
Knox Court, 10 Fitzalan Place			
Cardiff CF2 1TL			
Enq: 01222 448412, Dealing: 01222 483512			
http://www.legal-and-general.co.uk			
Cash	62.25	62.25	6.42
Equity Acc	1505.00	1505.00	1.99
Equity Dist	717.10	717.10	1.99
Equity Income	122.90	122.90	4.48X
European	173.90	173.90	0.07
European Index	109.80	109.80	1.05
Far Eastern	170.30	170.30	0.00X
Fixed Interest	58.45	58.46	7.31X
Gilt	96.81	96.81	6.06X
Global Growth	83.66	83.66	0.01
Intl Bond	48.35	48.35	5.84
Japanese	55.68	55.68	0.00X
Japanese Index	28.00	28.00	0.00
North American	278.80	278.80	0.00
Pacific Growth	85.83	85.83	0.34X
UK Index	92.44	92.44	2.59X
UK Index Acc	93.53	93.53	2.59X
UK Recovery	132.20	132.20	1.41X
UK Small Cos	181.00	181.00	2.08
UK StockmarktAcc	90.96	90.98	0.47
UK Tactical	81.84	81.84	5.65X
US Index	108.10	108.10	0.75
Worldwide	108.90	108.90	1.07
Worldwide Acc	109.80	109.80	1.07
Lloyds Bank Unit Trust Managers Ltd			
Mountbatten House, Chatham,			
Kent, ME4 4JF			
Tel: 01634 834000, Dealing: 01634 834313			
Balanced	492.20	523.70	1.82X
Balanced Acc	1197.00	1274.00	1.82
ContEuropeGr	93.42	98.34	0.00X
ContEuropeGrAcc	101.20	106.60	0.00
Extra Income	352.40	374.80	3.43
Extra Income Acc	599.20	1063.00	3.42
FTSE 100	152.90	162.00	2.00
FTSE 100 Acc	162.20	172.80	2.00
German Gwth	165.70	176.50	0.00
German Gwth Acc	173.80	183.00	0.00
Gwth Ptflo Acc	795.50	847.40	0.22
Gwth Portfolio	756.30	804.60	0.22
High Interest	108.00	113.00	6.67X
High Interest Acc	122.50	127.00	6.67
Inc Portfolio	666.00	708.80	3.88X
Inc Portfolio Acc	780.50	830.40	3.86
Income	677.80	720.90	3.01X
Income Acc	1893.00	2021.00	3.01
Japan Gwth	78.01	82.99	0.00
Japan Gwth Acc	78.39	83.28	0.00
Master Trust	75.74	80.56	1.14
Master Trust Acc	85.92	94.56	1.14
Millennium	107.30	114.20	2.19
N Amer & Gen Acc	353.70	376.30	0.00
N Amer & Gen Inc	305.60	325.20	0.00
NAmSmCos&RecAcc	342.90	258.50	0.00
NAmSmCos&RecInc	253.00	253.30	0.00
Pacific Basin	180.10	191.60	0.89
Pacific Basin Acc	192.00	204.50	0.89
Premier Exempt	194.90	203.40	2.83
Safety First	114.40	120.50	1.35
SmlrCos&Rec	542.00	576.60	1.36X
SmlrCos&RecAcc	761.10	801.20	1.36
UK Equity Growth	198.50	211.20	2.16
UK Equity Inc	159.40	169.60	3.80X
UK Growth	127.30	135.70	1.58
UK Growth Acc	162.80	173.20	1.58
W'wide Gwth	385.80	407.70	0.35
W'wide Gwth Acc	575.20	612.00	0.35
Hill Samuel Exempt Umbrella Trust			
(formerly Lloyds)			
European Acc	261.70	272.70	1.44X
Japan Acc	34.57	35.99	0.00X
Pacific Acc	51.42	54.07	2.34X
UK Equity Acc	365.80	383.30	2.34X
NorthAmericanAcc	308.20	321.70	0.71X
UKSmlrCosAcc	169.50	180.30	2.08X
Newton Fund Managers Ltd			
2 Festival Square, Edinburgh EH3 9SU			
Clients 0800 614330, Broker 0500 440000,			
Dealing, 0500 440040			
Internet: information@newton.co.uk			
AmericanGwthAcc	83.62	87.89	0.00X
AmericanGwthInc	83.12	87.38	0.00X
Bridge	72.42	77.59	2.21
Cash	60.03	60.03	6.31X
Cash Acc	72.56	72.56	6.31X
Distributor	123.33	131.20	2.44
European	70.87	75.18	0.00
Foundation	126.74	134.82	1.58
General	259.93	276.52	1.01
Growth Acc	168.46	180.27	1.84X
Growth Inc	162.12	172.48	1.84X
Higher Inc	40.34	42.91	5.02
Higher Inc Acc	51.14	54.40	5.02
Income	330.44	351.53	2.90X
Internatl Bond	131.91	140.32	4.96
Intl Growth	42.76	45.48	0.00
Intrepid	100.48	106.89	1.85
Japan	25.05	26.65	0.00
Oriental	117.45	124.94	0.16
Oriental Acc	121.79	129.50	0.16
Northern Rock Unit Trusts Ltd			
Balman House, Regent Centre, Gosforth			
Newcastle Upon Tyne NE3 3NG			
Tel: 0191 285 2555			
NorthnRockHighInc	55.47	58.70	5.80X
UK Growth	133.10	140.80	2.56
Prudential Unit Trusts Ltd			
51-59 Ilford Hill, Ilford, Essex, IG1 2DL			
IFA Dealing: 0345 835995			
Client Dealing: 0345 835560			
Cash Haven	100.01	102.51	6.67
Cash Haven Acc	124.44	126.09	6.67
Distribution	117.27	121.52	4.80X
Distribution Acc	137.99	142.99	4.80
Equity	1048.05	1114.95	1.77X
Equity Income	102.92	109.49	3.98
European	331.60	343.62	0.24
Global Gwth	116.63	122.90	0.69
High Income	105.81	112.53	4.66X
Intl Gwth	231.61	246.38	0.00
Intl Sm Cos	97.56	103.80	0.63X
Japanese	100.87	104.71	0.00
Managed	49.03	50.81	1.71
Managed Inc	50.52	52.21	7.55X
Nth Amer	298.58	310.06	0.06
Pacific Mkts	97.83	101.02	1.42
Premier Inc	49.85	51.68	8.02X
Small Cos	117.58	125.10	1.65X
Spec Sits	140.88	157.71	1.89
UK Growth	177.75	189.10	1.84
Save & Prosper Securities Ltd			
16-22 Western Rd, Romford, Essex RM1 3LB			
Clients: 0800 829 100			
Brokerline: 0800 727 770			
Amer Smlr Cos	184.30	195.80	0.00
Cash	142.40	142.40	5.56
China Dragon	64.84	68.08	0.32
Commodity	128.60	136.80	0.00
Emerging Markets	38.96	41.34	0.48
European Gwth	291.70	310.30	0.06X
EuropeanSmlrCos	79.75	84.84	0.00
Extra Income	63.57	67.95	5.15X
Far Eastern Gwth	75.75	80.59	0.00
FarEasternSmCos	37.00	39.36	0.67
Financial Secs	405.50	431.40	1.34
Gold&Exploration	48.53	51.95	0.00
Growth	530.70	533.40	1.51
High Income	82.36	82.38	6.29X
Intl Bond	150.30	164.80	4.86
ITU	259.30	275.90	0.77X
Japan Growth	124.10	131.80	0.00
JapanSmallerCos	106.70	113.30	0.00
Korea	25.01	26.61	0.00X
Latin America	48.80	51.92	0.26
Masterfund	72.07	72.43	0.94
PremierEquityGwth	206.70	219.90	1.17
PremierEquityInc	443.70	470.00	3.60
SE Asia	33.50	35.64	0.22
Southern Africa	60.94	64.38	1.33
UK & Overseas	225.50	239.90	0.70
UK Equity Inc	368.20	392.80	2.74
UK Sm Cos	65.66	69.85	0.90
US Gwth	275.60	293.30	0.00
Scottish Amicable Ltd			
PO Box 14962 Craigforth Stirling, FK9 4ZD			
01786 448844			
***Pension Funds**			
95% Safeguard Pens	111.00	(Mid)	0.00
100% Safeguard Pens	104.50	(Mid)	0.00
Wealth Presvtn Cap	109.30	(Mid)	0.00
Wealth Presvtn Inc	60.40	(Mid)	0.00
Singer & Friedlander Inv Funds Ltd			
21 New Street, London EC2M 4HR			
Tel: 0171 967 9777, Dealing: 0171 626 6226			
***SIB Recognised Dublin OEIC Funds**			
UK Equity Income	108.45	(Mid)	4.61
Sterling Reserve	27.49	(Mid)	5.00
Corporate Income	101.71	(Mid)	5.84
Tai Pan	86.56	(Mid)	0.00
Aztec	83.25	(Mid)	0.00
AmericanGrowth	167.85	(Mid)	0.00
European	152.53	(Mid)	0.00
Global Bond	68.09	(Mid)	6.82
Samurai	44.77	(Mid)	0.00
UK Growth	122.83	(Mid)	2.26
UKEmergingLeaders	98.98	(Mid)	2.33
Investment Trust	112.11	(Mid)	2.51
Football Fund	85.89	(Mid)	0.00
Reserve Roll Up Fund	101.04	(Mid)	0.00
Singer & Friedlander Unit Managers Ltd			
Continental	109.30	115.40	0.74
Global/GrowthPEP	86.90	94.91	0.66
InvestmtTrustPtflo	61.20	65.63	0.68
Managed Ex	1484.05	1531.5	1.45
Preferred Income	109.70	116.60	6.32X
Smaller Cos	287.70	306.00	0.80
Standard Life Unit Trusts			
30 Lothian Rd, Edinburgh EH1 2DH			
Tel: 0800 33 33 53			
GlobalAdvantage	50.77	54.03	1.19
GlobalAdvantageAcc	55.81	56.09	1.19
IncomeAdvantageAcc	51.46	51.72	3.76
IncomeAdvantageInc	42.54	42.76	3.76
Managed Acc	70.50	74.73	1.69
Premier Inc Acc	60.18	61.39	6.81
Premier Inc Inc	53.06	54.33	6.81
UKEqHighInc	48.55	52.53	3.67X
UKEqHighIncAcc	68.47	72.58	3.67
UKEquityGthAcc	118.70	125.90	1.38
Thornton Unit Managers Ltd			
Swan House, 33 Queen Street,			
London EC4A 1AX			
Tel: 0171-246 3000, Dealing: 0171 246 3001			
DresdnerEuropeBdAcc	65.65	69.53	6.52
DresdnerEuropeBdInc	38.35	40.50	6.52
European	401.77	420.70	0.84
European Inc	390.03	408.40	0.84
Exempt Acc	79.79	83.02	2.76
Exempt Inc	2858.44	2981.14	2.76
GlobalEmMktsAcc	88.69	94.12	0.54
GlobalEmMktsInc	82.07	85.93	0.54
Japan Tst Acc	66.65	69.68	0.00
Japan Tst Inc	66.55	69.86	0.00
Little Dragons Acc	84.84	88.83	0.00
Little Dragons Inc	82.42	86.30	0.00
NthAmerGwthAcc	482.57	505.30	0.40
NthAmerGwthInc	381.60	399.89	0.40
Oriental IncomeAcc	60.46	63.32	4.21
Oriental IncomeInc	42.26	44.25	4.21
Preference Acc	933.83	998.77	7.86
Preference Inc	144.35	151.15	7.86
Tiger Acc	223.74	234.28	0.00
Tiger Inc	212.87	223.00	0.00
UK BlueChipAcc	110.23	115.31	1.45
UK BlueChipInc	89.28	93.93	1.45
UK Growth Acc	1867.84	1955.85	0.81
UK Growth Inc	787.33	824.42	0.81
UK HighYieldAcc	505.34	529.15	4.78
UK HighYieldInc	137.61	143.98	4.78
UK Mid-Cap Acc	724.53	758.67	1.53
UK Mid-Cap Inc	376.13	392.80	1.53
UK SmCosDivAcc	178.02	186.40	5.90
UK SmCosDivInc	90.53	94.79	5.90
UK Sm Cos Acc	168.53	176.47	0.70
UK Sm Cos Inc	140.71	147.34	0.70
Virgin Direct			
Discovery House, Whiting Road, Norwich			
Tel: 0345 95 95 95			
Email: mail@virgin-direct.co.uk			
Pen Growth Acc	121.57	121.57	0.00
Pen Inc Protector	111.02	111.02	0.00
PPS Income	108.34	108.34	6.29
PPS UKIndexTracking	155.56	155.56	2.32

Care is taken to ensure that the information provided by Bloomberg and Financial Express for the independent is correct, but neither warrant, represent or guarantee the contents of the information, nor do they accept any responsibility for errors, inaccuracies, omissions or any inconsistency herein.

FINANCIAL EXPRESS Bloomberg
www.bloomberg.com

Key
X - ex-dividend
Copies of the most recent managers' reports and scheme particulars are available from fund managers free on request.
A more extensive list of unit trusts and managed funds is published on Wednesdays and Saturdays.



WHILE WE READ THE NEWS
YOU READ THE PRICES
Available on cable and satellite 0800 731 9966
Bloomberg TELEVISION
http://www.bloomberg.com

هكذا من الاصل

صكذا من الاصل

Fast talking is easy for the Village voice

Tom Durkin's unique commentaries have enlivened every Breeders' Cup meeting, even though he has required hypnosis to conquer his nerves. His training for the big day excludes alcohol, but as *Richard Edmondson*, in Los Angeles, discovers the post-race ritual makes up for the abstinence.

We're *not the* same in European and American racing but nowhere is the difference quite so pointed than in the technique of race commentary. Britain has Peter O'Sullevan, who employs pauses so protracted that you sometimes wonder if he has popped down to the village shop for a jar of chutney. His counterpart over the pond is Tom Durkin, who can hold his breath as long as a sperm whale and deliver the contents of an entire dictionary before you can say "down the stretch they come".

Durkin, 45, the former harness-racing announcer at the Meadowlands track in New Jersey, was just beginning to get a television break when he was called up for the inaugural Breeders' Cup here at Hollywood Park in 1984. He has not missed one since.

The man from Chicago always changes his diet in the autumn to salubrious foodstuffs and alcohol-free beverages. Come Breeders' Cup time he has a six-pack stomach, though his natural bear-size physique makes it appear the six have been sent down the throat into his tummy. "I just like to feel good physically before I do the show, but I do have a vexing problem with my weight," he said yesterday. "I just try to do the right thing for a while."

On his very first call at the Breeders' Cup, Durkin though it had been his luck to commentate just at the same time as an earthquake struck Inglewood. His binoculars started to shake violently. Then he realised the tremor was being caused by his hands. It is odd to consider that this most fluent of performers almost had to be led away a jibbering wreck at one stage, that his career was rescued from tension by *hypnosis therapy*. "I still get pretty nervous, but only to the point where it is a good thing, because it's a problem when you're not a little nervous," he said. "There's a lot of people listening out there and it's very easy to make a mistake."

Durkin did get through that first Breeders' Cup and rewarded himself with a beer at the nearest outlet. In his smog of relief, Durkin left his binoculars at the door with two nice, young men who were wearing earplugs. They explained they would soon have to leave as they were looking after someone in the room, Gerald Ford, President of the United States. Our man looked up to find Frank Sinatra, Fred Astaire and Cary Grant also in his close proximity.

If by Breeders' Cup day he is the mild-mannered racecaller Tom Durkin, our commentator becomes the city's unbridled carouser by night. He may not have had a drink for several weeks, but he appears to log the missed ones and work throught them all diligently on that Saturday night each year. The Durkin post-Breeders'-Cup party is an extraordinary function that makes an Oliver Reed bash sombre by comparison.

The commentator and his college friends dress up on stage as the Village People (our man as Sitting Bull) and *deliver YMCA*. They touch and revere the icons collected from previous Breeders' Cups: posters and something which resembles a gold tablecloth. Tom's buddy, Grubby, is turned upside down and carried above the shoulders until he is Dancing On The Ceiling, which is the Lionel Ritchie ditty playing at the time. Durkin himself does a phantom race call, which is always won by *Tough Betty, the* horse named after his 82-year-old mother. And they drink.

To close the show, Tom Durkin skates across a polished floor on his tummy, like a penguin sliding down an ice floe on its way into the ocean. It is believed that Peter O'Sullevan performs a somewhat different exit.

Michael Stoute leads Singspiel out for some track exercise at Hollywood Park Photograph: Harry How /Allsport

French blockade causes a Destiny re-think

The French lorry drivers' dispute is causing major problems for British trainers organising travel arrangements for their runners in France this week. Peter Chapple-Hyam's Victory Note and Brian Meehan's Stone Of Destiny, the two British acceptors for the Criterium de Maisons-Laffitte tomorrow, are now doubtful runners for the Group Two event.

Because of the blockade connections have been forced to search for alternative means of transport with little success. "We considered flying but flights are at a premium. If we did go across in a horsebox we could be stuck on the side of the road for days," a spokeswoman for Chapple-Hyam said.

And a spokeswoman for Meehan said: "We've decided not to go. MAFF [Ministry of Agriculture] are advising people not to travel to France."

Rockett takes McCoy to a century

Tony McCoy continued his rampage through the record books when he broke his own record for the fastest 100 winners in a season on Sam Rockett at Newton Abbot yesterday.

On 21 November last year McCoy broke Peter Scudamore's record to the fastest hundred by 30 days and he lowered that score by a further 16 days here.

RICHARD EDMONDSON
NAP: Tarry
(Musselburgh 2.30)
NB: Fighting Times
(Musselburgh 1.00)

"If I stay in one piece I'm going to aim at Peter Scudamore's record of 221 winners," McCoy said.

Today it is the horses rather than the riders who command attention with Imperial Call, the 1996 Cheltenham Gold Cup winner, taking on this year's Gold Cup third, Dorans Pride, at Clonmel.

Michael Hourigan has switched Dorans Pride, who made a winning reappearance over three miles at Listowel in September, to the two-and-a-half-mile contest following the abandonment of last month's Munster National. "He is very well," the trainer said. "The step *down to two and a half miles* doesn't worry me. We are up against Imperial Call – but only one of us can win."

MUSSELBURGH

HYPERION
12.30 Thatched 2.30 Salska
1.00 Doc Ryan's 3.00 Forzair
1.30 Kilcullen 3.30 Chocolate Box
2.00 Glass River 4.00 Alpine Hideaway.(nb)

GOING: Good.
STALLS: *Round course – inside; straight course – far side.*
DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low for 5f; High from 7f to 1m 4f.
● Right-hand oval course with tight turns.The 5f course is one of fastest in the country.
● Course is 5m E of Edinburgh on A1. Bus link from Edinburgh station 5m. ADMISSION: Club £12; Tattersalls £6 (OAPs and unemployed £3). U-16s free. CAR PARK: Free.
● *LEADING TRAINERS (FIVE-YEAR-RECORD): J Berry — 38 winners from 186 runners* gives a success ratio of 20.4%; M Johnston 20 from 126 (15.9%); Mrs M Reveley 14 from 94 (14.9%); M Channon 10 from 37 (27%).
● LEADING JOCKEYS: K Darley 42 wins from 204 rides gives a success ratio of 20.6%; J Carroll 25 from 175 (14.3%); J Fortune 20 from 158 (12.7%); G Duffield 15 from 71 (21.1%).
● *FAVOURITES: 209 wins in 479 races (43.6%).*
BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Mazeed (visored), Forest Robin (12.30); Wud Ventura (visored), Tom (1.30); Dibola (2.00): Gold Clipper (3.00).

12.30 LADBROKE ON-COURSE HANDICAP (CLASS E) (DIV I) £5,000 added 1m Penalty Value £3,136

1 121055 ANTARCTIC STORM (19) (D) (Northumbria Leisure) R Fahey 4 10 0 ... R Winston (5) 2
2 005510 KNOBBLEENEEZE (5) (D) (A Andrews) M Channon 7 9 11 ... A Culhane 1 V
3 140242 KASS ALHAWA (3) (D) (J B Wilcox) D Chapman 4 9 7 ... G Duffield 5
4 305000 RUNNING GREEN (8) (D) (Die-Hard Racing) D Moffatt 6 9 7 ... Dean McKeown 4 V
5 600000 MAZEED (6) (Mrs L A Windsor) P Evans 4 9 3 ... J F Egan 3 V
6 434000 MONACO (15) (Ian R Flannigan) R Allan 3 9 2 ... J Quinn 13
7 053001 ALFAHAAL (24) (D) (M M Foulger) C Dwyer 4 9 2 ... J Fortune 10
8 005400 DENTON LAD (17) (Mrs M Irwin) W Kemp 3 8 0 ... J Carroll 14
9 500013 SCATHEBURY (18) (CD) (BF) (N Shields) K Burke 4 8 12 ... L Charnock 7
10 350000 GENUINE JOHN (17) (Mrs G M Z Spink) J Parkes 4 8 9 ... N Day 6 B
11 000300 FOREST ROBIN (3) (Platinum Racing) Mrs J Ramsden 4 8 6 ... F Lynch 12 B
12 002520 THE BARNSLEY BELLE (98) (K Meynell) J L Eyre 4 8 5 ... T Williams 8
13 500000 SIX FOR LUCK (23) (C) (Mrs J McFadyen-Murray) D Nolan 5 8 3 ... A Mackay 11
14 400004 THATCHED (6) (CD) (C W Marwood) R Barr 7 8 0 ... P Fessey (3) 9
– 14 declared –
BETTING: 4-1 Alfahaal, 9-2 Antarctic Storm, 6-1 Knobbleeneeze, 7-1 Kass Alhawa, Thatched, 12-1 Forest Robin, 14-1 Running Green, Monaco, Scathebury, The Barnsley Belle, 16-1 others
1996: Scaraben 8 10 0 J Fortune 8-1 (S Kettlewell) drawn (10) 14 ran
FORM GUIDE
THATCHED won at Redcar at the end of last season and went close in the same race this time round, finishing fourth of 25 behind Sueltach. Runner-up Jedi Knight won at Redcar on Tuesday and Thatched could easily be in the shake-up here. Fifth to Gulf Shaadi at Ascot and again at Newmarket, Antarctic Storm is lumbered with ten stone in this lower grade but commands respect, nevertheless, while Knobbleeneeze is far from out of it, only 1lb higher than when he was when beating Westman's Weigh at Ayr (7f). Kass Alhawa is running well at present and won't mind coming back to a mile after chasing home the in-form Sovereigns Court at Nottingham on Monday, while Scathebury can't be ruled out even if he was left trailing by Mytton's Mistake at Leicester ten days ago. Scathebury was 2lb higher in the handicap when he defied ten stone to win a seller over this mile back in April. Alfahaal has his first run for Chris Dwyer after winning twice for Fulke Johnson Houghton. Selection: THATCHED

1.00 SUPPORTERS CARE HANDICAP (CLASS F) (DIV I) £5,000 added 1m 4f Penalty Value £3,214

1 /00005 SLASHER JACK (23) (C) (D) (T C Chiang) R Fahey 6 9 12 ... R Winston (5) 2
2 000333 DOC RYAN'S (7) (P J Flavin) M Ryan 3 9 8 ... P McCabe (3) 13 B
3 050223 BACK ROW (6) (C D Barber-Lomax) J Hetherton 3 9 7 ... G Duffield 4
4 500020 LORD ADVOCATE (23) (CD) (Mrs J McFadyen-Murray) D Nolan 9 9 6P Fessey (3) 12 B
5 682114 FIGHTING TIMES (18) (BF) (Julian Graves Ltd) C Smith 5 9 3 ... Dean McKeown 11 V
6 362510 KINGDOM PEARL (31) (D) (G B Turnbull Ltd) M Camacho 3 8 11 ... L Charnock 3
7 353060 MOONRAKING (59) (D) (Ian Bentall) T Etherington 4 8 7 ... Dale Gibson 6
8 662500 MIAMI MOON (3) (M B Clemence) G Johnson Houghton 3 8 4 ... Doubtful 7
9 541003 BROCTUNE LINE (15) (D Playforth) Mrs M Reveley 3 8 2 ... K Darley 10
10 020600 HAVANA HEIGHTS (20) (A Cross) J L Eyre 4 8 0 ... J Quinn 5
11 6-0006 RAASED (9) (Marson Investments Ltd) F Watson 5 8 0 ... T Williams 9
12 0-0023 PROTARAS BAY (6) (Cavotoro Partnership) P Gilligan 3 7 11 ... A Polli (5) 8
13 044500 MAURANGI (9) (M E Foxton) B Murray 6 7 10 ... D Wright 1 B
– 13 declared –
Minimum weight: 7st 10lb. True handicap weight: Maurangi 7st 5lb.
BETTING: 3-1 Back Row, 5-1 Fighting Times, 7-1 Doc Ryan's, Lord Advocate, Kingdom Pearl, Broctune Line, Protaras Bay, 8-1 others
1996: Peep O Day 5 8 1 T Williams 25-1 (J Eyre) drawn (8) 13 ran
FORM GUIDE
BROCTUNE LINE's two wins were on Southwell's Fibresand but he should be able to win on turf, having finished third to Vanadium Ore and stablemate Essayeffsee in the first division of the 10f handicap at Newcastle a fortnight ago. Vanadium Ore and Essayeffsee ran well (fifth and second) behind Jedi Knight at Redcar on Tuesday. Fighting Times wasn't able to complete the hat-trick in the second division at Newcastle (fourth to the Reveley-trained Brambles Way) but he's improved since being fitted with the visor. Back Row's third of 29 behind Ordained at Newmarket was an improved performance, suggesting she can get the better of Kingdom Pearl, who beat her in a weak race at Catterick. Previously with Luca Cumani, Back Row is having her first run for James Hetherton. Like Back Row, Protaras Bay was a good third at Newmarket last Friday, in the apprentice handicap won by Tipperary Sunset. Doc Ryan's isn't running badly and stepping up to a mile and half might suit him. Selection: BROCTUNE LINE

1.30 COCKATOO EBF MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £5,000 added 2YO 1m Penalty Value £3,630

1 0 CAPLAW SKEEN (15) (G P Bernacchi) J L Eyre 9 0 ... O Pears 5
2 3 KILCULLEN (13) (Sheikh Mohammed) J Gosden 9 0 ... J Carroll 3
3 6 TEN BOB (15) (Mrs M Tompkins) M Tompkins 9 0 ... D Biggs 1
4 00030 TOM (24) (C D Barber-Lomax) J Hetherton 9 0 ... L Charnock 4 B
5 53635 WUD VENTURE (34) (Dr Frank S B Chao) C Dwyer 8 9 ... N Day 7 V
6 06 ANNOUNCING PEACE (10) (Mrs P O'Neil) M Johnston 8 9 ... J Quinn 8
7 5 KAMEEZ (15) (Ali Saeed) M Johnston 8 9 ... Dean McKeown 8
8 00 ZEPTEPI (58) (Kings Cross Racing) R Simpson 8 9 ... M Gallagher 2
– 8 declared –
BETTING: 4-5 Wud Ventura, 5-2 Kilcullen, 10-1 Kameez, 14-1 Caplaw Skeen, Ten Bob, 16-1 Tom, 25-1 Announcing Peace, 50-1 Zeptepi
1996: Wellaki 9 0 J Carroll 5-4 fav (J Gosden) drawn (8) 7 ran
FORM GUIDE
John Gosden has won this for the last two years with Santillana and Wellaki and should go close at least with KILCULLEN, a staying-on third behind Zaya at Doncaster (7f). Kilcullen will improve for the experience and over the extra furlong, but the same applies to Ten Bob, who showed promise when a running-on sixth behind Jila at Yarmouth, a maiden in which plenty of the big yards were represented. Wud Ventura is much more exposed but could be the one to beat, nevertheless. Sixth to Mudaar in a Leicester maiden that worked out well, Wud Venture takes a big drop in class after finishing fifth to Haami in a Listed race at Newmarket. Selection: KILCULLEN

2.00 COCKATOO SELLING NURSERY HANDICAP (CLASS F) £5,000 added 2YO 5f Penalty Value £3,396

1 40600 BARRELBIO (20) (A Sweeney and I Cross) J J O'Neill 9 7 ... K Darley 5
2 640300 INSHALLAH (15) (Leeds Plywood and Doors Ltd) M Todhunter 9 7 ... J Carroll 2
3 054035 GLASS RIVER (9) (R F F Mason) P Evans 9 5 ... J F Egan 6
4 046020 SATIS (33) (Barry Walters Catering) M Channon 8 12 ... A Culhane 7
5 0002 ESSE (24) (J Barry) J Barry 8 12 ... P Fessey (3) 9
6 350030 NGAERE PRINCESS (21) (Drakemyre Racing) W Kemp 8 12 ... T Williams 4
7 000000 DIBOLA (21) (S Pedersen) J Wainwright 8 10 ... Dean McKeown 8 B
8 430 GLENSTAL LAD (108) (J D Graham) R Hollinshead 8 7 ... F Lynch 3
9 400002 I'M TEF (17) (T E F Freight Ltd) T Easterby 8 5 ... L Charnock 1
– 9 declared –
BETTING: 5-2 Glass River, 4-1 Esse, 9-2 Barrelbio, 5-1 I'm Tef, 8-1 Glenstal Lad, 12-1 Inshallah, 14-1 Satis, 16-1 others
1996: Fearless Cavalier 8 5 F Lynch (3) 7-4 fav (R Hollinshead) drawn (3) 11 ran

2.30 OLIVER HOMES NOVEMBER HANDICAP (CLASS D) £10,000 added 2m Penalty Value £7,298

1 205/0- SHONARA'S WAY (J408) (Alan Guthrie) P Monteith 6 10 0 ... O Pears 6
2 552600 SEA VICTOR (19) (D) (J David Abell) J L Harris 5 9 9 ... Dean McKeown 8
3 323130 HERE COMES HERBIE (19) (CD) (H S Hutchinson) W Storey 5 9 5 ... J F Egan 15
4 -52541 NICHOL FIFTY (6) (Lloyd Bedecki) M Tompkins 3 9 5 (5ex) ... D Biggs 2
5 04/0-1 OUTSET (19) (M Kilner) M Hammond 7 9 2 ... J Carroll 12
6 155502 SALSKA (7) (D) (P L Clinton) A Streeter 6 8 13 ... L Newton 10
7 112600 THE BUTTERWICK KID (7) (C) (R Chambers) R Fahey 4 8 13 ... R Winston (5) 7
8 281025 GOLD DESIRE (21) (BF) (Northgate Lodge Racing) M Brittain 7 8 13 .D Merrigan (7) 13
9 560020 ALPINE PANTHER (33) (P D Savill) Mrs M Reveley 4 8 11 ... K Darley 17
10 12660 CHILDREN'S CHOICE (6) (D) (Mrs A V Tolman) W Musson 8 8 9 ... C Lowther (3) 16
11 112630 GOLDEN HADEER (22) (D) (Four Jays Racing) M Ryan 6 8 8 ... P McCabe (3) 1
12 0-6110 THEME ARENA (13) (D) (A Sotorilos) M Pipe 4 8 7 ... M Henry (3) 4 V
13 315533 ALL ON (13) (C) (N Hetherton) J Hetherton 6 8 7 ... R Ffrench (3) 11
14 5-1012 TARRY (6) (Pieces Of Eight Partnership) Gay Kelleway 4 8 5 ... G Duffield 3
15 431060 NORTHERN MOTTO (117) (C) (D Callaghan) J Goldie 4 8 3 ... J Quinn 14
16 -1615 SELMESTON (22) (D) (C Wright) S C Williams 5 8 3 ... T Williams 9
17 112514 PHILMIST (24) (C D Barber-Lomax) Miss L Perratt 5 8 2 ... L Charnock 5 B
– 17 declared –
BETTING: 5-1 Theme Arena, 8-1 Sea Victor, 8-1 Outset, 10-1 Salska, Tarry, Selmeston, 12-1 Here Comes Herbie, Nichol Fifty, Gold Desire, All On, 14-1 others
1996: Northern Motto 3 8 6 J Quinn 8-1 (J Goldie) drawn (11) 17 ran
FORM GUIDE
Northern Motto was coming back from a break when he won at Southwell in February and isn't badly handicapped, so he must have a chance of following up last year's win. He'll have to be fighting fit, though, and ALL ON is just one of several alternatives. The mare, who won twice under Royston Ffrench in the spring, has come back from a break in good shape and will be suited by the longer trip following her third to in-form Jawah at Doncaster. Jawah went on to defy a penalty at Nottingham, where Salska finished second and The Butterwick Kid eighth. Salska's previous race was the Cesarewitch, in which she finished behind Sea Victor and Here Comes Herbie, both capable of going close here if anywhere near their best. Having made all at Warwick and Nottingham, Theme Arena finished only seventh to Whitechapel at Newbury, but she was 6lb out of that handicap and this is more her level. Outset won in good style at Redcar and there's no reason why he shouldn't make his presence felt on the Flat again. The other last-time-out winner is Nichol Fifty, perhaps better over shorter distances but whose fourth to Heart Of Gold at Ayr (1m 7f) shows he stays quite well. Tarry had Children's Choice back in ninth when runner-up to Ordained at Newmarket but the 12 furlongs of that race wasn't enough of a stamina test for the Musson mare. Selection: ALL ON

3.00 SUPPORTERS CARE HANDICAP (CLASS F) (DIV II) £5,000 added 1m 4f Penalty Value £3,194

1 4355-0 TICKNTIMA (152) (A J Peake) M Hammond 3 9 12 ... J Carroll 11
2 655003 WESTMINSTER (6) (D) (M C Jenkins) M Tompkins 5 9 8 ... D Biggs 4 V
3 00040 PUTERI WENTWORTH (22) (HRH Sultan Ahmad Shah) Gay Kelleway 3 9 7 .J Fortune 1
4 020032 FORZAIR (24) (D) (Clayton Bigley Partnership) J J O'Neill 5 9 3 ... C Lowther (3) 3
5 281550 TYCOON TINA (15) (C) (A N Brooke Rankin) W M Brisbourne 3 8 11 ... J Bramhill 8
6 300000 LIVE PROJECT (15) (Mrs Gillian Quinn) R Craggs 5 8 9 ... A Culhane 6
7 45-000 BELZAO (13) (G Piper) R Simpson 4 8 7 ... M Gallagher 2
8 015002 ARIF (15) (D) (Mrs Annette Harris) J A Harris 5 8 2 ... Doubtful 7 B
9 005601 WELCOME HOME (19) (D) (Messinger Stud) P Dalton 3 8 1 ... L Charnock 9
10 10-005 PEEP O DAY (20) (CD) (John L Holdroyd) J L Eyre 6 8 0 ... T Williams 10
11 000000 NOTATION (17) (J M Chapman) D Chapman 3 7 13 ... P Fessey (3) 5
12 -00065 JIMJAREER (29) (Mrs G S Rees) J H Wilson 4 7 11 ... A Mackay 13
13 440200 GOLD CLIPPER (30) (P E Axon) M Ryan 3 7 10 ... R Ffrench (3) 12 B
– 13 declared –
Minimum weight: 7st 10lb. True handicap weight: Gold Clipper 7st 4lb.
BETTING: 3-1 Westminster, 7-2 Welcome Home, 11-2 Puteri Wentworth, 13-2 Tycoon Tina, 7-1 Forzair, 8-1 Ticktima, 12-1 Live Project, Peep O Day, 16-1 others
1996: see division one
FORM GUIDE
Welcome Home is back on turf after coming good in a 12-furlong handicap on Wolverhampton's Fibresand and it will be interesting to see if the forcing tactics pay off again. Welcome Home could make this a stamina test and TYCOON TINA has a bit to prove when it comes to staying this trip. She might be worth risking, though, because she teams up again with John Bramhill, on-board when the filly won over a mile here in May. Tycoon Tina will have to stay every yard, because if Welcome Home doesn't force the pace, Peep O'Day probably will, as was the case a year ago when she made all on her fourth outing. Peep O'Day had been well beaten in her previous race, a handicap, and can be excused, finishing a long way behind Swan Hunter at Catterick last time, as she faced a tough task at the weights. Jimjareer comes into the reckoning as he was just in front of Peep O'Day at Catterick and is slightly better off. Forzair has yet to win a handicap but this soft race might not be beyond him. Selection: TYCOON TINA

3.30 OLIVER HOMES EBF MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS E) £5,000 added 2YO 7f 30yds Penalty Value £3,552

1 4 CULCRAGGIE (28) (Guthrie Robertson) J L Eyre 9 0 ... T Williams 8
2 042506 GIFT OF GOLD (15) (Classic Gold) I Campbell 9 0 ... A Mackay 6
3 06004 ONE TO GO (9) (The Minor Punters Club) J Berry 9 0 ... P Fessey (3) 5
4 00 OPENING NIGHT (9) (Miss J Rumford) R Simpson 9 0 ... M Gallagher 3
5 62 THREE ANGELS (19) (Bernard Bloom) M Tompkins 9 0 ... D Biggs 4
6 0040 ABSTONE PET GIRL (5) (J E Abbey) P Evans 8 9 ... J F Egan 9
7 66064 ANKA LADY (24) (Fred Coulson) D Moffatt 8 9 ... Darren Moffatt (3) 2
8 3 CHOCOLATE BOX (24) (J M Greetham) W Haggas 8 9 ... F Lynch 10
9 0 MAC'S TYPE (15) (Black Type Racing) W Storey 8 9 ... J Fanning 7
10 MINSTER MOORGATE (C N Wilmot-Smith) M W Easterby 8 9 ... G Parkin (3) 1
– 10 declared –
BETTING: 5-2 Culcraggie, 7-2 Chocolate Box, 5-1 Gift of Gold, Three Angels, 6-1 One To Go, 12-1 Anka Lady, 16-1 Abstone Pet Girl, 20-1 others
1996: Spaniards Mount 8 7 R Mullen (7) 7-2 (M Tompkins) drawn (5) 6 ran
FORM GUIDE
Mark Tompkins won last year's race with Spaniards Mount and might not be far away this time round if Three Angels can improve upon his second to First Master at Folkestone. Culcraggie is probably the one they have to beat following his staying-on fourth behind Set Trail at Ayr, although there was plenty of cut in the ground that day and Culcraggie could find this 7f on faster ground a bit sharp. Like Culcraggie, CHOCOLATE BOX ran a promising race on soft ground first time out, finishing third to the more experienced Only in Dreams and Astrapi in a fillies' maiden at Leicester. Chocolate Box is a half-sister to several winners, including Arctic Owl. Selection: CHOCOLATE BOX

4.00 LADBROKE ON-COURSE HANDICAP (CLASS E) (DIV II) £5,000 added 1m Penalty Value £3,116

1 610028 ALPINE HIDEAWAY (8) (D) (Easterby Trailers) M W Easterby 4 9 13 ... G Parkin (3) 12
2 503615 ZORBA (13) (C D Barber-Lomax) J Hetherton 3 9 6 ... G Duffield 7
3 310650 NEEDLE MATCH (8) (Clayton Bigley Partnership) J J O'Neill 4 9 3 ... C Lowther (3) 3
4 000004 DISPOL GEM (15) (W B Imison) P Calver 4 9 2 ... K Darley 14
5 002150 SHONTAINE (9) (D) (Paul Dean) M Johnston 4 9 2 ... Dean McKeown 10
6 250305 TROJAN HERO (16) (D) (BF) (C C Buckley) Mrs M Reveley 6 9 1 ... A Culhane 6
7 000100 PINE RIDGE LAD (9) (D) (Whittakerscliffe Partnership) J L Eyre 7 9 1 ... R Lappin 5
8 040500 KINGCHIP BOY (134) (D) (Four Jays Partnership) M Ryan 8 8 13 ... P McCabe (3) 8 V
9 003160 ANETTA (47) (D) (B McAllister) Miss S Hall 3 8 11 ... L Charnock 13
10 050330 WINSTON (9) (D) (Mrs J E Vickers) J Bethell 4 8 7 ... J Carroll 11
11 652050 NKAPEN ROCKS (SPA) (3) (Lady Lilford) J H Wilson 4 8 6 ... R Ffrench (3) 9
12 213506 PRINCIPAL BOY (38) (D) (Chris Moreno) T Etherington 4 8 4 ... Dale Gibson 1
13 36002 GLEN OGIL (6) (W A Harrison-Allan) M Channon 3 7 13 ... A Mackay 4
14 000104 LUNCH PARTY (8) (D) (S Aitken) D Nicholls 5 7 13 ... Iona Wands (5) 2
– 14 declared –
BETTING: 5-1 Alpine Hideaway, 6-1 Trojan Hero, 7-1 Glen Ogil, 8-1 Zorba, Shontaine, 10-1 Needle Match, Winston, Lunch Party, 12-1 others
1996: see division one
FORM GUIDE
ALPINE HIDEAWAY has a bit going for him in that he had Shontaine, Needle Match, Winston and Pine Ridge Lad behind when beating all bar Sueltach and Mick Easterby's other runner, Jedi Knight (winner since), at Redcar. At the other end of the handicap is Lunch Party, second home on the less favoured far side when fourth to Speedy Classic at Yarmouth last week. That race and the one that Lunch Party won at Yarmouth were over seven furlongs but he has a squeak at this trip. Dispol Gem ran her best race for a while when fourth to On The Green at Newcastle, suggesting she can add to earlier wins at Redcar and Ripon. Just behind Dispol Gem in the Newcastle race was Trojan Hero, yet to win a handicap but a front-runner who could be suited by this track. Mick Ryan won't have brought Kingchip Boy all this way just for the run and he is not be badly handicapped. Selection: ALPINE HIDEAWAY

LINGFIELD (AW)

HYPERION
1.40 Blue Shadow 2.10 Palacegte Jack 2.40 At Liberty 3.10 Mutasawwar 3.40 Corniche Quest 4.10 Sharp Shuffle

GOING: Standard. STALLS: Inside, except 5f (outside).
DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low for 5f & 6f.
● Left-hand, sharp course (Equitrack surface).
● Course is SE of town on B2028. Station adjoins course. ADMISSION: Members £13, Tattersalls £9. CAR PARK: Club £3; rest free.
● LEADING TRAINERS: G L Moore – 70 winners from 528 runners gives a success ratio of 13.3%, M Johnston 56-297 (18.9%), R O'Sullivan 47-339 (13.9%), R Hannon 46-370 (12.4%).
● *LEADING JOCKEYS: S Sanders 56-515 (10.9%), D Holland 47-213 (22.1%)*, S Whitworth 40-275 (14.5%), W Ryan 31-198 (15.7%).
BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Mercury Falling (1.40); The Druidess (1.40); Classic Dame (2.40); Finarts Bay (3.10).

1.40 NATIONAL MAGAZINES NURSERY HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,025 2YO 5f

1 055030 RED PEPPER (30) P Howling 9 7 ... S Whitworth 9
2 50016 RAPID RELIANCE (41) (D) R Ingram 9 5 ... A McGlone 1
3 115540 RISKY WHISKY (22) (D) J Berry 9 2 ... P Roberts (3) 8 B
4 060500 BLUE SHADOW (41) R Hannon 9 2 ... Dane O'Neill 7
5 501200 SWANMORE LADY (8) S C Williams 9 0 ... D Holland 5
6 5000 ESSANDESS (31) J L Eyre 8 7 ... S Drowne 2
7 35000 ADRENALIN (117) T Clement 8 6 ... J Lowe 6
8 04000 MERCURY FALLING (16) D Arbuthnot 8 5 ... Martin Dwyer 3 B
9 0000 THE DRUIDESS (21) G Bravery 7 10 ... P Doe (7) 4 B
– 9 declared –
Minimum weight: 7st 10lb. True handicap weight: The Druidess 7st 6lb.
BETTING: 7-2 Rapid Reliance, 9-2 Risky Whisky, Swanmore Lady, 5-1 Red Pepper, Blue Shadow, 6-1 Mercury Falling, 7-1 Essandess, 8-1 others

2.10 MAIL NEWSPAPERS HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,025 added 5f

1 0U0140 GENERAL SIR PETER (10) (D) N Callaghan 5 10 0 ... Amanda Sanders 2 B
2 50(0)93 ANOTHER BATCHWORTH (18) (D) E Wheeler 5 9 11 ... A Daly (3) 6 B
3 260003 NAPIER STAR (47) (D) Mrs N Macauley 4 9 11 ... S Webster 6 V
4 130D4 PALACEGATE JACK (18) (D) J Berry 6 9 10 ... T E Durcan (3) 10 B
5 201020 MYSTICAL (16) (D) Mrs L Stubbs 3 9 7 ... S Whitworth 3 V
6 031260 LIFT BOY (209) (CD) G L Moore 8 9 6 ... Candy Morris 9
7 006133 PASSIONATTI (20) S Gollings 3 9 5 ... S Sanders 7
8 000060 ANOKATO (18) (D) K Ivory 3 9 5 ... Martin Dwyer 5 B
9 022465 SONGSHEET (18) (D) M Saunders 4 9 3 ... P P Murphy (3) 1
10 412644 LUCKY DIP (112) (D) D Elsworth 3 9 3 ... Dane O'Neill 4
– 10 declared –
BETTING: 4-1 Songsheet, Passionatti, 6-1 Lucky Dip, 7-1 Another Batchworth, Napier Star, Palacegate Jack, 8-1 General Sir Peter, 10-1 others

2.40 MIRROR SELECT CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS F) £3,300 added 1m 4f

1 000020 HARVEY WHITE (15) J Pearce 6 9 12 ... M Wigham 10
2 040020 NIGHT CITY (8) K Burke 6 9 12 ... D Sweeney (3) 4
3 621031 STATAJACK (3) (C) (D) D Elsworth 9 9 12 ... T Quinn 2 B
4 0-6040 EXPLOSIVE POWER (30) (C) G Bravery 6 9 6 ... M Rimmer 8
5 /00033 KRAYYAN DAWN (16) (C)(D) J Akehurst 7 9 6 ... D Holland 8
6 00 MILTON ABBOT (13) M Saunders 4 9 3 ... P P Murphy (3) 11
7 040333 OOZLEM (30) (C) L Montague Hall 8 9 3 ... W Ryan 3 B
8 30-040 CLASSIC DAME (FR) (J18) S Dow 4 9 1 ... S Sanders 5 E
9 630035 INKWELL (9) G L Moore 3 9 0 ... M Fenton 7
10 000/6- YACHT (J15) A Newcombe 5 9 0 ... Jo Hunnam (5) 14
11 443406 AT LIBERTY (12) (CD) R Hannon 5 8 11 ... Dane O'Neill 1
12 -04000 D J CAT (15) W Muir 4 8 11 ... Martin Dwyer 6
13 565500 LOGIE PERT LAD (50) J Bridger 5 8 11 ... G Bardwell 12
14 000-40 SAFECRACKER (14) C Morlock 4 8 8 ... N Adams 13
– 14 declared –
BETTING: 3-1 Statajack, 6-1 Night City, 7-1 Krayyan Dawn, At Liberty, 8-1 Oozlem, Classic Dame, 10-1 Harvey White, Explosive Power, 12-1 others

3.10 JOHNSONS INTERNATIONAL MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £4,900 3YO 7f

1 0 CLONOE (12) R Ingram 9 0 ... A McGlone 2
2 440650 MANIKATO (21) D Cosgrove 9 0 ... M Rimmer 3
3 -43400 MUTASAWWAR (19) M Saunders 9 0 ... P P Murphy (3) 5
4 032002 SARATOGA RED (9) (BF) W O'Gorman 9 0 ... D Holland 4 V
5 5-030 BLUSHING DESERT (39) R Hannon 8 9 ... Dane O'Neill 10
6 0-4300 FINARTS BAY (8) Mrs J Cecil 8 9 ... Martin Dwyer 8 B
7 0-0000 KILMEENA LADY (129) J Fox 8 9 ... S Drowne 7
8 0-2 MAROZIA (15) J Gosden 8 9 ... G Hind 1
9 TIERRA DEL FUEGO H Collingridge 8 9 ... N Adams 8
10 -00000 WILD NETTLE (13) J Fox 8 9 ... D O'Shea 6
– 10 declared –
BETTING: 2-5 Marozia, 6-1 Saratoga Red, 10-1 Blushing Desert, 12-1 Finarts Bay, 20-1 Mutasawwar, 25-1 Manikato, 33-1 others

3.40 A.C.E. HANDICAP (CLASS D) £4,900 added 7f

1 4R250 KINGS HARMONY (45) (D) P Makin 4 9 10 ... S Sanders 7
2 300530 ROFFEY SPINNEY (10) (C) R Hannon 3 9 9 ... Dane O'Neill 16
3 326354 TWIN CREEKS (37) (CD) V Soane 6 9 9 ... R Perham 3
4 206000 MAJAS (141) (C) L Montague Hall 4 9 9 ... W Ryan 13
5 500020 CEE-N-K (8) (C) (D) M Johnston 3 9 8 ... Doubtful 5 B
6 02630 NORTHERN ANGEL (58) (D) P Harris 3 9 7 ... D Holland 9
7 160005 PALACEGATE TOUCH (20) (CD) J Berry 7 9 7 ... T E Durcan (3) 6 B
8 115316 BARBASON (59) (CD) G L Moore 5 9 4 ... Candy Morris 10
9 020005 LANCASHIRE LEGEND (70) (CD) S Dow 4 9 3 ... P Doe (7) 1 E
10 210000 GOODBYE GATEMEN (31) B Pearce 3 9 2 ... Martin Dwyer 15
11 205640 FRIENDLY BRAVE (43) (C D BF) Gay Kelleway 7 9 2 ... A Whelan (3) 4
12 006088 CORNICHE QUEST (10) (D) M Channon 4 8 11 ... A Eddery (7) 14
13 055050 GODMERSHAM PARK (29) P Felgate 5 8 2 ... S Drowne 2
14 2100- RETOTO (447) (BF) B McMath 3 8 0 ... G Bardwell 12
15 0-00 PUNCHAL WAY (12) B R Millman 5 7 11 ... F Norton 8
16 303540 LAS VISTAS (45) H Collingridge 3 7 10 ... N Adams 11
– 16 declared –
BETTING: 9-2 Barbason, 11-2 Twin Creeks, 13-2 Friendly Brave, 7-1 Northern Angel, 8-1 Roffey Spinney, Corniche Quest, 10-1 Kings Harmony, Lancashire Legend, 12-1 others

4.10 TELEGRAPH NEWSPAPERS AMATEURS HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,300 1m 2f

1 530000 SHARP SHUFFLE (19) R Hannon 4 11 7 ... Mr C Vigors 1
2 630558 MAGIC MILL (8) J L Eyre 4 11 5 ... Miss D Jones 8
3 322001 MYSTIC QUEST (10) (C) K McAuliffe 3 11 1 (5ex) ... Mr T McCarthy 10 V
4 065025 SEA DANZIG (16) (C) J Bridger 4 10 11 ... Miss R Illman (5) 13
5 002555 MASTER BEVELED (13) (C) P Evans 7 10 10 ... Mr A Evans (5) 2 V
6 3004 CASTLES BURNING (10) (CD) C Cyzer 3 10 10 (5ex) ... Mrs S Bosley 11
7 203000 BAGSHOT (63) (CD) (BF) G L Moore 6 10 9 ... Mr I Mongan (5) 6
8 23621 PEGASUS BAY (16) (C D) A Johnson 6 10 5 (5ex) ... Miss L Pearce 7
9 05605 SHEEP STEALER (34) R Peacock 9 10 4 ... Mrs C Peacock (5) 9
10 -60250 SHAHIK (78) (D) K Comerford 7 10 4 ... Dr A Kimber (5) 14
11 2660- COPPERBEECH (360) K Comerford 3 10 3 ... Mr J Owen (5) 5
12 000000 MONTONE (44) (C) (D) J Jenkins 7 10 2 ... Dr M Mannish 3
13 00-000 PALISANDER (18) S Dow 3 10 2 ... Mr R Guest (5) 4 E
14 00643 ROMAN REEL (36) (CD) G L Moore 6 9 13 ... Mrs J Moore 12
– 14 declared –
BETTING: 4-1 Master Beveled, 9-2 Pegasus Bay, 6-1 Castles Burning, Roman Reel, Mystic Quest, 7-1 Sharp Shuffle, Sea Danzig, 10-1 others

TOWCESTER

HYPERION
1.20 Margi Boo 1.50 The Whole Hog 2.20 Star Manager 2.50 Wilde Music 3.20 ARDROM (nap) 3.50 Jefferies 4.20 Maylin Magic

GOING: Good (Good to Soft in places).
● Right-hand, undulating circuit. Run-in of 140yd.
● Course is on A5 SE of town. Buses from Northampton rail station. ADMISSION: Club £12; Tattersalls £6 (OAPs £4); Course £5. CAR PARK: Free.
● *LEADING TRAINERS: D Nicholson – 25 winners from 61 runners gives a success ratio of 41%, K Bailey 12-51 (23.5%), T Forster 9-74 (12.2%), Mrs J Pitman 8-36 (22.2%).*
● LEADING JOCKEYS: A Maguire 22-64 (34.4%), N Williamson 13-57 (22.8%), J Osborne 13-62 (21%), A P McCoy 11-50 (22%).
BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Snow Board (1.50).

1.20 LETHEBY & CHRISTOPHER SELLING HURDLE (CLASS G) £2,375 added 2m

1 632344 TOUCH SILVER (26) (D) H Manners 7 11 12 ... A Dowling (7)
2 -12P06 MY HARVINSKI (15) I Jones 7 11 5 ... Miss E J Jones (7)
3 /3313- LIMOSA (437) Mrs L Richards 6 11 0 ... J A McCarthy
4 DINO'S MISTRAL (F15) K Morgan 4 10 12 ... A S Smith
5 153/03 ERICOLIN (7) (D) Miss A Stokell 7 10 12 ... Ann Stokell
6 06-P KRASNIK (12) Mrs D Haine 4 10 12 ... D Bridgwater B
7 43/5-6 PHROSE (26) (D) C Jones 7 10 12 ... L Suthern (7)
8 5-5023 SAILS LEGEND (36) (BF) Z C Davison 6 10 12 ... A P McCoy
9 ZAHAALIE (F45) J Pickering 5 10 12 ... W Marston
10 644342 MARGI BOO (16) M Sheppard 4 10 7 ... R Johnson
– 10 declared –
BETTING: 3-1 Sails Legend, 7-2 Margi Boo, 5-1 Touch Silver, Ericolin, 6-1 Limosa, 12-1 My Harvinski, 16-1 Krasnik, Phrose, 25-1 others

1.50 TIFFIELD HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £5,000 added 3m 1f

1 2PU21- LITTLE MARTINA (208) (D) D Grissell 9 11 10 ... J R Kavanagh
2 1221S- FLYING GUNNER (216) D Nicholson 6 11 7 ... A Maguire
3 114-F3 FUNCHEON GALE (10) (C) R Curtis 10 11 4 ... D Morris
4 1S101- COVERDALE LANE (222) (D) Mrs S Smith 10 11 3 ... R Guest
5 40423- ROBSAND (238) G Balding 8 10 13 ... B Clifford
6 2051I- FORTUNES COURSE (F36) (D) J King 8 10 11 ... T J Murphy
7 2I1-4I THE WHOLE HOG (10) (CD) K Bailey 8 10 5 (6ex) ... N Williamson
8 01P-61 SNOW BOARD (16) (C) Mrs M Jones 8 10 3 (6ex) ... D Byrne B
9 84042- SHAMARPHIL (237) R Alner 11 10 0 ... Miss S Barraclough
– 9 declared –
Minimum weight: 10st. True handicap weight: Shamarphil 9st 13lb.
BETTING: 11-4 Flying Gunner, 7-2 The Whole Hog, 9-2 Little Martina, 7-1 Funcheon Gale, Coverdale Lane, Snow Board, 8-1 Robsand, Fortunes Course, 12-1 Shamarphil

2.20 LAMBERT SMITH HAMPTON NOVICE H'CAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £2,925 2m

1 00S- ZAISAN (229) J Gifford 4 11 10 ... P Hide
2 00U3/ STAR MANAGER (F13) (BF) P Cole 7 11 8 ... J Osborne
3 044-36 SAPPHIRE SON (7) P Clarke 5 11 5 ... B Fenton
4 5030-3 HOLKHAM BAY (13) L Wordingham 5 11 5 ... X Aizpuru (5) B
5 0/6UP- MYSTIC COURT (245) A Turnell 6 11 0 ... C Rae (7)
6 /0P-00 BRANDON BRIDGE (20) D Geraghty 6 10 11 ... R Supple
7 U5-00U INCHYDONEY BOY (73) Z C Davison 8 10 8 ... D Morris
– 7 declared –
BETTING: 11-10 Star Manager, 4-1 Zaisan, 5-1 Holkham Bay, 7-1 Sapphire Son, 12-1 Inchydoney Boy, 14-1 Mystic Court, 25-1 Brandon Bridge

2.50 IRISH R M NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,075 added 2m 110yds

1 PU1S2- ABSOLUTE LIMIT (197) (BF) J Gifford 5 11 3 ... L Aspell (3)
2 46604- BARTON SCAMP (218) D Williams 5 11 3 ... Mr S Durack (7)
3 2530- DANBYS GORSE (196) (CD) J M Jefferson 5 11 3 ... E Callaghan (3)
4 16604- KADASTROF (FR) (F22) (D) R Dickin 7 11 3 ... A P McCoy
5 6/6F5 NORDANSK (28) (CD) M Madgwick 8 11 3 ... B Fenton
6 1003-3 ROVESTAR (8) (D) C Popham 6 11 3 ... M A Fitzgerald
7 2320- ROYAL EVENT (202) (D) D Gandolfo 6 11 3 ... A Maguire
8 23FP/3 TENNESSEE KING (18) (D) A Foster 7 11 3 ... Doubtful
9 /4325- WILDE MUSIC (225) (D) C Brooks 7 11 8 ... J Osborne
– 9 declared –
BETTING: 5-2 Wilde Music, 7-2 Kadastrof, 4-1 Royal Event, 9-2 Absolute Limit, 8-1 Rovestar, 10-1 Danbys Gorse, 12-1 Nordansk, 25-1 others

3.20 HOWARD SMITH PAPER MARES NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) (DIV I) £2,425 2m

1 501- ARDROM (248) (D) P R Webber 5 11 7 ... J Osborne
2 -5 BRAVE FRIEND (12) C M Hicks 5 10 7 ... V Slattery
3 0505-3 DERRING FLOSS (29) Miss J Wormall 7 10 7 ... X Aizpuru (5)
4 555-2 HURRICANE JANE (16) M J Roberts 5 10 7 ... P Henley (3)
5 3/P LADY KAY-LEE (28) M Campion 7 10 7 ... W McFarland
6 00 LASTOFTHEBLAKENEYS (14) T McGovern 4 10 7 ... M A Fitzgerald
7 2506 LOTSCHBERG EXPRESS (28) D Gandolfo 5 10 7 ... Sophie Mitchell (5)
8 42-1 OI MOTHER (152) D Nicholson 5 10 7 ... A Maguire
9 0F- SISSINGHURST FLYER (194) R Dickin 5 10 7 ... J Culloty
10 0-0 THE LADY SCORES (17) K Bailey 5 10 7 ... N Williamson
– 10 declared –
BETTING: 5-4 Oi Mother, 3-1 Ardrom, 7-1 Hurricane Jane, 8-1 Lotschberg Express, 10-1 The Lady Scores, 12-1 Derring Floss, 20-1 others

3.50 WICKEN HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,650 added 2m 5f

1 -1132 JAMAICAN FLIGHT (16) (C) Mrs S Lamyman 4 11 13 ... N Williamson
2 0161I- SPENDID (272) (C) D Nicholson 5 11 12 ... A Maguire
3 31F-51 SILVER STANDARD (12) (D) T Forster 7 11 3 ... S Wynne B
4 12612- JEFFERIES (244) (C) (BF) J Old 8 11 0 ... C Llewellyn
5 41F4-2 SCARBA (25) J Jefferson 9 10 12 ... M Mello (7)
6 23312- ENTERIAAL (177) (CD) J King 6 10 11 ... T J Murphy
7 443-11 PRIME OF LIFE (120) J Eustace 7 10 8 ... S McNeill
8 22182 FIVE FLAGS (82) (D) Mrs S Smith 9 10 8 ... R Guest
9 38P12- MOCK TRIAL (F185) (D) Mrs M Jones 4 10 6 ... D Byrne
10 P506-0 ROSEHALL (21) Mrs T Pilkington 6 10 0 ... G Hogan (3)
– 10 declared –
Minimum weight: 10st. True handicap weight: Rosehall 8st 11lb.
BETTING: 5-2 Spendid, 5-1 Silver Standard, 11-2 Jamaican Flight, Prime Of Life, 7-1 Jefferies, Mock Trial, 8-1 Scarba, Enteriaal, 10-1 others

4.20 HOWARD SMITH PAPER MARES NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) (DIV II) £2,425 2m

1 4/ DARK ROMANCE (868) Z C Davison 6 10 7 ... A P McCoy
2 0543- FUN WHILE IT LASTS (194) T Forster 6 10 7 ... S Wynne
3 0/6P4- GENTLE BREEZE (280) J Gifford 5 10 7 ... P Hide
4 00- KNIGHTSBRIDGE GIRL (203) I Williams 6 10 7 ... R Johnson
5 P2424- MAYLIN MAGIC (210) (BF) T Casey 6 10 7 ... M Clarke
6 00- OUTRAGEOUS AFFAIR (180) A James 5 10 7 ... W Marston
7 60-0 OXBRIDGE LADY (15) N Twiston-Davies 6 10 7 ... C Llewellyn
8 681-4 QUISTAQUAY (27) (D) J Mellor 5 10 7 ... R Guest
9 0-0 TAWNY WARBLER (16) Miss P Robson 5 10 7 ... J A McCarthy
– 9 declared –
BETTING: 9-4 Fun While It Lasts, 7-2 Gentle Breeze, Maylin Magic, 4-1 Quistaquay, 8-1 Oxbridge Lady, 20-1 Knightsbridge Girl, 25-1 others

RESULTS

HAYDOCK

1.10: 1. FOUNDRY LANE (P Niven) 11-8 fav; 2. Cul De Sac 7-1; 3. Prince Kinsky 5-2. 15 ran. 4, 7. (Mrs M Reveley, Saltburn). Tote: £2.40; £1.50, £1.90, £1.00. DF: £9.80. CSF: £12.15. Trio: £5.10.

1.40: 1. CARLISLE BANDITO'S (Miss P Robson) 100-30; 2. Nordic Breeze 11-4; 3. Mithraic 7-4 fav. 6 ran. 4, 7. (J Berry, Cockerham). Tote: £4.10; £1.70, £1.60. DF: £6.40. CSF: £12.65.

2.10: 1. SUAS LEAT (E Callaghan) 11-8 fav; 2. Barnageera Boy 8-1; 3. Monyman 3-1. 5 ran. 10, 9. (J M Jefferson, Malton). Tote: £2.10; £1.60, £2.60. DF: £5.80. CSF: £10.29.

2.40: 1. THROWER (C Maude) 7-2; 2. Saint Ciel 85-40 fav; 3. Quango 4-1. 8 ran. 3½, 9. (S Brookshaw, Uffington). Tote: £4.00; £1.60, £1.30, £1.40. DF: £5.40. CSF: £11.37. Tricast: £28.73.

3.10: 1. LEVITICUS (J Callaghan) 2-1 fav; 2. Beryllium 8-1; 3. Northern Maestro 14-1. 15 ran. 5, 13. (T Tate, Tadcaster). Tote: £3.10; £1.50, £2.50, £3.30. DF: £9.30. CSF: £18.16. Trio: £52.30.

3.40: 1. THE PROMS (C Llewellyn) evens fav; 2. Alaskan Heir 20-1. 4 ran. 2½. (N Twiston-Davies, Cheltenham). Tote: £2.00. DF: £7.30. CSF: £11.28.

4.10: 1. BRAMBLEHILL DUKE (A Maguire) 11-4; 2. Calus 6-1; 3. Sikander A Azam 33-1. 16 ran. 5, 1¼. (D Nicholson, Temple Guiting). Tote: £4.20; £1.40, £2.00, £10.90. DF: £19.50. CSF: £21.21. Trio: £543.50.

Placepot: £25.10. Quadpot: £4.20.
Place 6: £18.45. Place 5: £15.45.

KEMPTON

1.30: 1. YET AGAIN (R Thornton) 7-4 jt fav; 2. Kimbers 10-1; 3. Alka International 8-1. 7 ran. 7-4 jt fav No Pattern (5th). 1½, ¾. (Gay Kelleway, Whitcombe). Tote: £2.20; £1.50, £3.00. DF: £23.20. CSF: £18.07.

2.00: 1. KILMINGTON (P Hide) 2-1; 2. Ely's Harbour 8-1; 3. Benbulbin 50-1. 4 ran. 8-15 fav Menesonic (fell). 3½, dist. (J Gifford, Findon). Tote: £2.90. DF: £7.10. CSF: £12.82.

2.30: 1. SCORING PEDIGREE (A Thornton) 11-8 fav; 2. Eirespray 8-1; 3. Knightsbridge Scot 4-1. 11 ran. 8, 5. (J Mullins, Andover). Tote: £2.20; £1.10, £2.40, £1.50. DF: £8.80. CSF: £12.84. Trio: £10.80.

3.00: 1. MONYMOSS (R Guest) 9-4 fav; 2. Solo Gent 9-2; 3. Lake Of Loughrea 11-1. 8 ran. 14, 1. (Mrs S Smith, Bingley). Tote: £2.50; £1.50, £2.70. DF: £8.20. CSF: £11.85.

3.30: 1. SHEKELS (G Bradley) 11-2; 2. Spring Gale 5-4 fav; 3. Lets Be Frank 9-4. 6 ran. 4, 11. (C Brooks, Lambourn). Tote: £7.00; £2.30, £1.80. DF: £6.90. CSF: £12.73. NR: Royal Raven.

4.00: 1. SMITH TOO (R Farrant) 5-2; 2. Jovial Man 7-1; 3. Flying Fiddler 5-4 fav. 5 ran. Nk, 30. (Mrs J Pitman, Upper Lambourn). Tote: £3.10; £1.60, £1.70. DF: £8.20. CSF: £16.60.

Placepot: £121.30. Quadpot: £18.70.
Place 6: £82.63. Place 5: £38.79.

NEWTON ABBOT

1.20: 1. BAMAPOUR (A P McCoy) 6-4 fav; 2. Reflex Hammer 9-2; 3. Wonderfull Polly 15-2. 8 ran. 8, ¾. (M Pipe). Tote: £2.10; £1.20, £2.20, £2.50. DF: £7.70. CSF: £8.00. Tricast: £33.01. Trio: £42.60. NRs: High Mood, Tight Fist.

1.50: 1. SAM ROCKETT (A P McCoy) 7-4 fav; 2. Docklands Courier 10-1; 3. Reach The Clouds 7-2. 9 ran. 2½, ¾. (M Pipe). Tote: £2.80; £1.60, £1.80, £1.10. DF: £21.70. CSF: £18.86. Tricast: £54.48. Trio: £22.90.

2.20: 1. EVANGELICA (A P McCoy) 13-8; 2. Flow 13-2; 3. General Crack 8-11 fav. 3 ran. 3½, dist. (M Pipe). Tote: £1.90. DF: £3.00. CSF: £7.41. NRs: Maple Dancer, See More Business.

2.50: 1. LAUREN'S TREASURE (B Fenton) 33-1; 2. River Challenge 2-1; 3. Via Del Quatro 40-1. 10 ran. 11-10 fav Dolce Notte. 2½, ½. (Mrs S Williams). Tote: £55.50; £6.10, £1.20, £2.90. DF: £57.00. CSF: £100.18. Trio: £112.40. NR: Elite Governor.

3.20: 1. GALATASORI JANE (T J Murphy) 2-1; 2. Dr Leunt 4-9 fav; 3. Blazing Miracle 20-1. 3 ran. 30, ½. (P Nicholls). Tote: £2.40. DF: £1.40. CSF: £3.13. NR: Strong Chairman.

3.50: 1. TIDAL FORCE (R Dunwoody) 4-6 fav; 2. Influence Pedler 5-1; 3. Diwali Dancer 11-4. 5 ran. 2½, 25. (P Hobbs). Tote: £1.70; £1.20, £2.20. DF: £4.10. CSF: £4.42.

4.20: 1. ORSWELLTHATENSWELL (R Dunwoody) 5-4 fav; 2. Cosy Ride 13-2; 3. Easidon Gold Dust 7-1. 6 ran. 2½, 25. (P Hobbs). Tote: £1.90; £1.30, £2.10. DF: £6.60. CSF: £9.36.

Placepot: £178.10. Quadpot: £25.60.
Place 6: £96.92. Place 5: £62.73.

THE INDEPENDENT
RACING SERVICES
0891 261 +
LIVE COMMENTARIES | RESULTS

MUSSELBURGH	971	981
LINGFIELD	972	982
TOWCESTER	973	983

ALL COURSES RESULTS
0891 261 970
Calls cost 50p per minute. T.L.S. plc, Scotton St FC2A 4PY

Moorer the southpaw stance master with clout

Michael Moorer is one of those southpaw fighters the boxing purists love to hate. On Saturday, he steps into the ring for a heavyweight world title unification fight that, as *Ken Jones* explains from Las Vegas, could mean trouble for Evander Holyfield.

Punching power: Michael Moorer targets the hands of his trainer, Freddie Roach, as he prepares for Saturday's showdown with Evander Holyfield in Las Vegas Photograph: Reuter

One thing about boxing upon which its professors are generally in agreement is that southpaws deserve the prejudice that has grown up against them.

The breed made nobody more indignant than Henry Cooper's manager, the late Jim Wicks, whose malapropisms are fondly recounted by veteran sports writers. In 1967, shortly before Cooper met Jack Bodell in defence of the British heavyweight championship Wicks, known commonly as "The Bishop", said: "Bodell and all them other southpaws are detergent to the fight game."

Although Cooper won in two rounds, the difficulties Wicks imagined were apparent in a second contest when Bodell, a limited fighter of legendary awkwardness, held an ageing Cooper to a decision.

When boxing trainers contemplate the southpaw problem they have often the air of people who have worked long on a single project that has not come out entirely to their satisfaction. This cropped up in a conversation I had with Freddie Roach who is preparing Michael Moorer, the International Boxing Federation heavyweight champion, to fight Evander Holyfield, the World Boxing Association title holder, on Saturday at the Thomas and Mack Center here.

Until Moorer outpointed Holyfield for both belts three years ago, later losing them by knock-out to George Foreman, there had never been a southpaw heavyweight champion. Simply on the basis that they could not be guaranteed regular employment, promising novices who shaped up naturally as "right handers" were quickly turned around in the gymnasium. Cooper's famous left hook, "Enery's Ammer" as it became to be known, was a development of this process.

The former undisputed middleweight champion Marvin Hagler and Vicente Saldivar, the formidable Mexican who defeated Howard Winstone of Wales three time for the featherweight title, are just two southpaws who have distinguished themselves, but Wick's ancient prejudice is still expressed in the heavyweight division.

There is a psychological aspect to this but, as Roach points out, the problem with southpaws is mostly physical. "It's not so much that they lead with the right hand as the foot position," Roach said. "If the orthodox fighter steps inside the southpaw's right foot he finds himself off balance and in difficulty delivering punches."

Watching Holyfield at work with one of his sparring partners, Jeff Wooden, you could see why Roach thinks that the WBA champion may be taking Moorer too lightly. It pleased Roach to hear that they stepped frequently on each other's feet and that Holyfield almost tripped over.

"That's what I am going on about," Roach said. "It's all right for Evander to say that Michael's stance won't be a factor but it was unquestionably a problem for him in the first contest."

Roach, who worked alongside the famed trainer Eddie Futch for five years, has a lighter touch than the volatile Teddy Atlas, who grew so weary of Moorer's moodiness that he walked away from the $800,000 (£488,000) that would have been his percentage of the purse money.

As A J Liebling put it: "It is often possible to gauge a winning fighter's temperament by his trainer's which will be just the opposite – a process like mirror-reading. A moody fighter, or a worrier does best under an easygoing type, who can make him laugh at himself; the good-tempered fighter needs a martinet to remind him that life is serious."

It is uncertain whether Moorer feels a lot more comfortable with Roach than he was with Atlas because he continues to put obstacles in the way of communication. Interrogators have to lean in close to catch what he is saying. After training on Tuesday he mumbled satisfaction with the way things are going and glared at a reporter who asked about a the fleshiness in an upper body that compares poorly with Holyfield's sculpted torso. "I'm happy with the way I am and I'm not into bodybuilding," he said.

Happy, too, it seems to have a trainer who is not confrontational. Before Moorer agreed to work with Roach he put some questions to him. Did he mind music in the gym and would he object if associates were present at training sessions, things which led to arguments with Atlas. "It wasn't a problem for me," Roach said. "We all have our ways of doing things, but I'm afraid that Teddy Atlas turned it into his show. Another thing Michael asked was how I would react if he knocked out sparring partners. I told him to just go ahead and do it."

In Roach's mind that proved Moorer's determination to gain confidence in his punching power. "The trouble is that people keep referring to the Foreman fight," Roach said. "If any heavyweight connects, never mind one as heavy-handed as George, you're in trouble. Anybody who saw the fight couldn't fail to have Michael ahead when George landed the right that finished it. Michael lost because of one lapse in concentration. It's one of the things we have been working on.

"In any case I much prefer Michael to look back on the Holyfield fight because that night he was clearly the better man."

Holyfield appears disdainful of the southpaw problem. "I don't even think about," he said. Holyfield, a deeply religious man, smiled at the suggestion that to discover God is a southpaw would turn him into an atheist. "God is as right-handed as I am," he said.

Dry eyes all round as McCall returns with a victory

Oliver McCall, whose last appearance in the ring was in tears against Lennox Lewis, made a victorious return on Tuesday night with a technical knock-out of journeyman Bryan Yates in the eighth round of their bout in Nashville, Tennessee.

The former World Boxing Council world heavyweight champion stopped Yates after 1min 36sec of the eighth with a series of jabs, after Yates had lost his mouthpiece following a barrage of uppercuts and hooks to the head.

McCall, who seemed confident between rounds, despite yells from the crowd of "Crybaby", was suspended and fined $250,000 [£155,000] for crying in the ring and refusing to fight Lewis in February in Las Vegas. After refusing to go to his corner twice and throwing only two punches in the fourth round, he was stopped by the referee, Mills Lane, 55 seconds into the fifth.

Another well-known name making a winning return on Tuesday night was Tim Witherspoon, who needed less than two minutes to knock out Levi Billups in his first bout in nearly a year, in Robinsonville, Mississippi.

The 39-year-old Witherspoon, who is trying to secure a bout for a third heavyweight title, was fighting for the first time since losing a unanimous 10-round decision to Ray Mercer last December.

The Nevada State Athletic Commission has told Mike Tyson that the door is open for his return to boxing, as long as he proves that he is fully rehabilitated. Tyson, suspended from fighting after being disqualified for biting Evander Holyfield's ears, said on Monday that he doubts the Commission will ever let him fight again.

But the Commission chairman, Elias Ghanem, said: "Mike Tyson has to prove to the commission, and the rest of the world, that he has rehabilitated himself. He has to admit to the terrible thing he did that night. He has to make a 180-degree turn."

RUGBY LEAGUE

Atcheson steps up as Crompton goes fishing

***Great Britain* have dropped three players following their defeat in the first British Gas Test against Australia – and have sacked one missing squad member. *Dave Hadfield* reports on a day of axe-swinging.**

Paul Atcheson and Adrian Morley have been promoted to the British starting line-up for the second Test at Old Trafford on Saturday, but the Test career of Martin Crompton has been ended before it has begun.

The scrum-half signed from Oldham by Salford has gone missing since being left out against Australia at Wembley and was officially turfed out of the squad yesterday.

"We are very, very disappointed with Martin's attitude," the Great Britain team manager, Phil Lowe, said. "If he doesn't want to make himself available for his country, he is better off where he is."

Crompton, bitterly hurt at being left out of the first Test after appearing to be the front-runner for the scrum-half role at one stage, is thought to be on a fishing holiday in Scotland.

He missed training sessions on Monday and yesterday and Britain have bowed to the inevitable by counting him out of the series.

Some others who were no doubt equally disappointed by their onlookers' roles in the Wembley Test have their reward in the side named yesterday.

Atcheson, Crompton's team-mate at Oldham last season who is now on St Helens' books, played just six minutes in London and starts for Great Britain for the first time. He has, however, played five times for Wales.

Morley, the strapping Leeds second-row, did enough in his substitute appearance at Wembley to persuade Goodway that he should start this match. Two other second-rowers, Simon Haughton and Mike Forshaw, are in line to make their debuts off the bench. Mick Cassidy is the forward to lose his place, although he says that he is not contemplating a fishing trip to Scotland.

The other man in the Wembley starting line-up to lose his place completely is Anthony Sullivan, the St Helens winger, who failed to display his outstanding domestic form

With Atcheson coming in as a specialist full-back, Jason Robinson returns to his original position on the right wing, Alan Hunte switching to the left in place of Sullivan.

The other changes are the disappearance of the Castleford prop, Dean Sampson, from the bench and the introduction there of Sean Long, the St Helens half-back.

Andy Farrell remains in the stand-off role that he occupied as an emergency measure at Wembley. The switch of Farrell from his normal loose-forward berth to the problem position behind the scrum was blamed by some commentators for Britain's failure to click at Wembley, but both Goodway and Farrell believe – correctly, in my view – that this is a superficial reading of the match.

GREAT BRITAIN v Australia (Old Trafford, Saturday): Atcheson; Robinson, Newlove, Radlinski, Hunte; Farrell, Goulding; Broadbent, Lowes, McDermott, Morley, Joynt, Scuthorpe. Substitutes: Long, Forshaw, Haughton, McNamara.

ICE HOCKEY

Future looks uncertain for Brebant

Rick Brebant, the under-pressure Newcastle Cobras coach, yesterday revealed he may not be in charge for tonight's Benson and Hedges Cup semi-final at home to Cardiff Devils.

Brebant is under fire following a disastrous run which has seen the Tyneside club lose eight of their last 10 games, including all seven opening matches in the Superleague. Cobras have a mountain to climb in the Newcastle Arena against Paul Heavey's Devils after losing the first leg 6-2 in the Icehouse last Saturday.

Brebant sounded as if he was facing the sack yesterday – despite previously pledging he would never walk out. Asked whether he would make a playing comeback and take to the ice to help Cobras out of their crisis, he said: "I don't know what I'm going to be doing any more." Then, asked whether he would be in charge tonight, Brebant replied: "I don't know. I don't want to say anything else. I'm fed up, very fed up."

Newcastle's season has fallen apart after a successful start to their Benson and Hedges campaign, when they won six and drew two of their 10 group matches to reach the quarter-finals. Only a 5-1 victory at Basingstoke Bison – after a 1-1 home draw in the first leg of the last-eight tie – managed to raise morale at the club.

– Ian Parkes

RUGBY UNION

All Blacks ready to take revenge without Lomu

It is almost exactly a quarter of a century since Llanelli turned over the All Blacks on an *emotional afternoon* at Stradey Park. As *Chris Hewett* reports, the current New Zealand *tourists have no* intention of walking into a similar ambush when they square up to the Scarlets on Saturday.

It may be anniversary time, but romantic sentiment was conspicuous by its absence yesterday. The All Black selectors named no fewer than 10 Test certainties in their line-up for this weekend's tour opener in Wales, where Llanelli are hoping to prove that their own special brand of red-tinged lightning can indeed strike twice.

Twenty-five years after Delme Thomas led the most celebrated Scarlets of them all to a 9-3 triumph over Ian Kirkpatrick's New Zealanders, the memory still rankles and John Hart, the All Black coach, is to field a side lavishly equipped for revenge.

Sean Fitzpatrick will spearhead a Test-strength front five and other first-choice mens include Josh Kronfeld on the breakaway flank, Justin Marshall at scrum-half and Frank Bunce and Jeff Wilson among the threequarters.

There is no place for Jonah Lomu, whose All Black career will almost certainly resume against Wales A at Sardis Road next Tuesday. Lomu, stricken by kidney problems and still on medication, must watch Glen Osborne stake a Test claim in the No 11 shirt at Stradey.

The Scarlets, meanwhile, will almost certainly be without their own All Black, Frano Botica. The veteran outside-half suffered a shoulder injury during last weekend's Heineken Cup play-off defeat by Cardiff and is likely to give way to Craig Warlow.

Talking of veterans, Will Carling is about to cross the shadow line between playing and pontificating; the former England captain, hardly noted for his love affair with the media during a long stint at the sharp end, will present ITV's coverage of England's internationals this winter.

Fritz van Heerden, the Springbok utility forward, has finalised his move from Western Province to Leicester. The South African Rugby Football Union has cleared the transfer and waived a 180-day stand-down period but, in the same breath, has made it clear that he will no long be considered for Test duty.

ALL BLACKS (v Llanelli, Stradey Park, Saturday): C Cullen (Central Vikings); J Wilson (Otago), F Bunce (North Harbour), A Ieremia (Wellington), G Osborne (North Harbour); A Mehrtens (Canterbury), J Marshall (Canterbury); C Dowd (Auckland), S Fitzpatrick (Auckland, capt), C Brown (Auckland), I Jones (North Harbour), R Brooke (Auckland), J Mayfield (Otago), A Blowers (Auckland), T Randell (Otago). Replacements: J Preston (Wellington), J Stanley (Auckland), Z Brooke (Auckland), M Cooksley (Waikato), A Oliver (Otago), M Allen (Central Vikings).

ATHLETICS

Jackson heads élite group moving home to keep in touch with Arnold

Malcolm Arnold, who is to step down as the performance director of British Athletics to take up a post at Bath University, will be joined in the West Country by Colin Jackson and others in his training group.

Jackson, the world 110 metres hurdles record holder, is moving home from Cardiff to Bath to link up with the man who has guided his career since junior days.

Allison Curbishley, aiming to fill the gap at 400 metres hurdles left by Sally Gunnell's retirement, the sprint hurdler Jacqui Agyepong and the sprinter Melanie Neef will also relocate to stay in touch with Arnold, who will start overseeing the University's ambitious athletics programme at the beginning of next year.

Arnold's decision to step away from his key job is not directly related to the British Athletic Federation's financial collapse. His job was safeguarded within the company set up to distribute National Lottery funding to Britain's élite performers, the Performance Athletes Services.

But, faced with the prospect of committing himself for several more years to a position where he has never felt at ease, the 57-year-old Welshman has decided, in his own words, to "get more of a life" by concentrating on his main strength – coaching – again.

"In the last 12 months my life has been exceedingly difficult," said Arnold, who helped guide Britain to a European Cup victory in June. "It has been the hardest working year in my life.

"I prefer to do one job to 110 per cent rather than five jobs to 20 per cent, which is what I have had to do. I have had far too many long days and sleepless nights. My family, my wife, and the athletes I coach have suffered."

Arnold expressed satisfaction yesterday over his efforts in shaping to sport's initial application for Lottery funding, which resulted in a £2.6m award. His is likely to work with the four newly appointed technical directors within PAS in shaping the seven-year plan which will be submitted to the Lottery Awards Board at the end of the year.

"I am not leaving the sport," he said. "I will be supporting the new chief executive Dave Moorcroft 100 per cent, and have agreed to continue working with PAS on a consultative basis."

But while Arnold prepares to ride off into the West, the sport faces the task of replacing him.

"Malcolm can be immensely influential in his new position," said Roger Eady, performance director for the UK Sports Council. "He has done the right thing in concentrating on his special talents. And he is still in a position to mentor a new generation of coaches in British athletics."

– Mike Rowbottom

هكذا من الاصل

هكذا من الأصل

FOOTBALL

Adams' merry-go-round halts at Griffin Park

Micky Adams has been appointed manager of the Second Division strugglers Brentford – his third job in six weeks.

Adams, who was released from Fulham when Kevin Keegan took over as chief operating officer. He then became manager of Swansea City – but his spell there lasted only 13 days after arguments over money to buy players.

Adams, who has been given a three-year contract, has already appointed Glenn Cockerill, a former colleague at Fulham, as his assistant player-manager.

The previous manager, Eddie May, and his assistant, Clive Walker, have been released, while the former manager, David Webb, is standing down as Brentford's chief executive, although he will keep working on a consultancy basis until his contract expires in May.

"Brentford are a bad team but there is potential here," Adams said. "The basis of the squad is the same as last season when they reached the play-offs." Angry fans demanded Webb's resignation in a protest after last night's 1-0 home defeat to Carlisle.

The Football Association is to launch an investigation after the Chester City manager, Kevin Ratcliffe, was found guilty of racial discrimination at an industrial tribunal.

It ruled that the former Wales defender should have been disciplined by the club for verbally abusing an apprentice, James Hussaney, who was awarded £2,500 for "injury to feelings".

The tribunal ruled Ratcliffe did not discriminate against Hussaney by releasing him – he is now with Southport – but Steve Double, an FA spokesman, confirmed the FA wants to look into the case.

Brian Little, the Aston Villa manager, last night watched Niclas Alexandersson, the Swedish international midfielder, play for IFK Gothenburg against Besiktas in the Champions' League. Alexandersson, 25, is available for about £1.5m.

Crewe have placed their much-coveted striker Dele Adebola on the transfer list. The £1.5m-rated 22-year-old has been linked with West Ham and Sunderland this season.

Le Havre have enquired about the availability of Andy Hunt, West Bromwich Albion's top scorer, who becomes a free agent next summer.

Paul Lambert may make his debut for Celtic on Saturday in the Old Firm derby against Rangers at Ibrox. The 28-year-old Scotland midfielder will sign for Celtic today following a medical, after the Parkhead club agreed a £1.7m deal with Borussia Dortmund.

Another of Celtic's internationals, Darren Jackson, may be in the squad to face their old rivals. Jackson, making his first appearance at Parkhead since brain surgery two months ago, equalised for the reserves in their 2-2 draw against Dunfermline on Tuesday.

The West Bromwich winger Kevin Kilbane has been recalled by the Republic of Ireland for the World Cup play-off second leg against Belgium in Brussels on 15 November.

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND SQUAD (World Cup play-off second leg v Belgium, Brussels, 15 November): Given (Newcastle), A Kelly (Sheffield Utd), G Kelly (Leeds); Cunningham (Wimbledon), Harte (Leeds), Breen (Coventry), Kenna (Blackburn), Irwin (Manchester Utd), Phelan (Everton), Fleming (Middlesbrough), Townsend (Middlesbrough), Staunton (Aston Villa), Houghton (Reading), McAteer (Liverpool), McLoughlin (Portsmouth), Cerasley (Derby), Cascarino (Nancy), Kennedy (Liverpool), Connolly (Feyenoord), D Kelly (Tranmere), Coyne (Motherwell), Kilbane (West Bromwich).

Villa given fresh impetus

Brian Little's chance to manage Aston Villa arose exactly three years ago after the double whammy of a Uefa Cup exit and a defeat at Selhurst Park ended Ron Atkinson's reign. Coincidence contrived a potential repeat of that scenario this week, but a stirring win over Athletic Bilbao means that Little's team visit Crystal Palace on Saturday with a fresh opportunity to relaunch their season.

How slender is the margin between success and the sack. The skids were under Atkinson after Villa beat Trabzonspor 2-1 only to go out on away goals. This time, an identical scoreline saw them into the last 16 by the narrowest of margins, ensuring a Premiership presence alongside the likes of Ajax, Atletico Madrid and Internazionale in tomorrow's third-round draw.

Doug Ellis, the Villa chairman, laughed off suggestions that history had threatened to repeat itself, saying: "It's nothing like that [Atkinson's departure] at all. I hope Brian will be here for a long, long time to come. I stand with him one thousand per cent." Ellis, whose agreement with Channel 5 ended with the Bilbao tie, also hopes to negotiate a lucrative new television deal.

If the manner of Villa's victory reassured restless supporters, it also posed the question as to why they appear incapable of reproducing such form in the League. They took maximum points from the games immediately after the first-round tie with Bordeaux, and drew at Arsenal on the back of the Basque country trip, but consistency has eluded them.

It may, therefore, take more than a win over Palace to convince their more sceptical fans. Yet after the home failure against Chelsea, which was sandwiched between unexpected expressions of disquiet by Savo Milosevic and Gareth Southgate, there was a sense in which Wednesday's triumph purged Villa's system.

Southgate had an outstanding game, as did Fernando Nelson, the Portuguese wing-back revelling in a midfield marking role. Milosevic also enjoyed one of his better nights in tandem with Dwight Yorke, while Stan Collymore, intriguingly, stayed on the bench. "A result like this can change everything," Yorke said. "Hopefully it will begin the healing process we need."

– Phil Shaw

Gullit ready to lead Chelsea into next century

Ruud Gullit is ready to sign a new contract to stay as Chelsea manager well into the 21st century – provided chairman Ken Bates can prove the club has a success plan for the next 10 years.

"I haven't signed yet but we are talking about it all the time," Gullit said. "It is not anything to do with money. It is about what Chelsea want and what they expect from me. You have to have a plan, a solid structure."

Gullit insists his future does not depend on Chelsea winning another trophy this season or reaching the quarter-finals of the European Cup-Winners Cup against Tromso at Stamford Bridge tonight.

His Italian striker Gianluca Vialli scored two late goals in a Norwegian snowstorm to reduce Chelsea's deficit to 2-3, which means they start tonight needing only a 1-0 win to go through on aggregate. Vialli said: "I know when I am going to score and I had that feeling over there even though I had played so badly.

"And I already know what is going to happen. I have a feeling – but I am afraid I will not tell you what it is. In Tromso I said to myself: 'Luca, you are having a nightmare. You are playing so badly that you must score'. And I did. In fact I improved so much that I scored twice.

"The second goal out there came with just a minute left and I am hoping it will prove very important. We have a hard task because Tromso are a strong side and will give us many problems, but I am confident."

Tromso, despite only just avoiding relegation from the top division in Norway this season, are furious that Gullit has attributed their first-leg victory to the farcical conditions.

Steinar Nilsen, who scored Tromso's first goal and will be playing his last game for them tonight before a move to Milan, said: "He used the snow as an excuse but it was the same for both sides. He seems to ignore the fact that we were the better team and led 2-0 before the blizzards came. Chelsea did not start with the right attitude and only when it was snowing did they look like scoring.

"He gave us no credit and what he said was not what you would expect to hear from a big manager, but we will use his words to motivate us."

Fans increase the pressure on Clark

Eleven months into his reign at Maine Road, the pressure is mounting on Frank Clark with Manchester City sitting just outside the First Division relegation zone.

Supporters had to be dispersed by mounted police on Tuesday after the 3-2 home defeat by Port Vale, as they staged a demonstration against the chairman, Francis Lee, and his board.

Mark Bittner, a member of the club's official supporters' committee who have monthly meetings with directors and Lee to voice their worries, said yesterday: "It's got to the point where you have to say: 'Where on earth do we go from here?'

"I can honestly say I have never seen a team as bad as this in City shirts. We have got worse and worse and worse and there doesn't seem to be any light at the end of the tunnel."

Bittner says he is speaking for many fans who are becoming unhappy with Clark's management. "What happens when we start playing the good teams in this division? My love is for Manchester City. I don't really care if Rupert Bear is in charge as long as we do well. But the quality has gone down and down, and these are the players Frank Clark has bought.

"My feeling is that it is time for Clark to go, for the club to admit they made a mistake.

"Brian Horton may not have been ideal, but there was a time in the last three years when we were fifth in the Premier League under him, with Franny as chairman. Now we are fifth again, but fifth in Greater Manchester. We are behind United, Bolton, Stockport and Bury."

TENNIS

Thomas Muster grimaces during his defeat by Karol Kucera in Stockholm yesterday, which may have ended his chance of appearing in the ATP Tour finals Photograph: AFP

Henman raises his game

Tim Henman completed a hat-trick of career wins over Magnus Gustafsson to reach the quarter-finals of the Stockholm Open yesterday.

The British No 2, who has received a wild card for the National Championships at Telford next week, lost his way in the second set but recovered his poise for a 6-3, 2-6, 6-4 victory.

Henman, who had beaten Gustafsson last year at Wimbledon and at Doha in January, got off to a flying start with an early break. He held for 5-2, saving a break point with an ace, fired another ace and finally clinched the game when Gustafsson sent a forehand over the baseline.

Henman had three set points in the ninth game, but the 30-year-old Swede saved the first two, as Henman double-faulted on the first and was outmanoeuvred by a lob on the second. But the eighth seed won the set in 27 minutes with an ace.

Gustafsson, cheered on by nearly all the crowd in the half-empty Kungliga Tennishalle, kept his composure as the second set stayed with serve, the Swede winning the third and fifth games on aces.

Henman lost the next game as Gustafsson took a 4-2 lead with a huge overhead smash. He then held for 5-3, then broke once again on a passing shot to square the match at one set each from an hour's play.

Gustafsson dropped serve to start the third set as several line calls went against him. The disruption unsettled the Swede and Henman rolled through the final set and advanced to the quarter-finals as he hit a high volley to an empty corner of the court.

The British No 1, Greg Rusedski, who has been troubled by a virus this week, is scheduled to play Frenchman Lionel Roux in the second round today.

Karol Kucera beat the fifth-seeded Thomas Muster 4-6, 6-3 – a defeat which may have ruined the Austrian's chances of reaching next week's ATP World Championship in Germany.

As well as Henman, seven of Britain's top juniors have been given wild cards for the National Championships. They include 16-year-old Simon Dickson of Cheshire and 15-year-old Hannah Collin of Surrey, who are the current 18 and Under National champions, and David Sherwood, who won the Junior Boys' doubles title (with James Trotman) at the Australian Open last January.

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS (Telford). Wild cards: Men T Henman (Oxon); M Hilton (Cheshire); S Dickson (Cheshire); D Sherwood (Yorkshire). Women S Lydon (Somerset); L Cartwright (Warks); H Collin (Surrey); H Farr (Surrey).

CRICKET

Sri Lankans overwhelm Pakistan

Centuries by Sanath Jayasuriya and Aravinda de Silva saw off Pakistan as Sri Lanka scored a crushing eight-wicket win in the Golden Jubilee tournament in Lahore yesterday.

Jayasuriya hit 134 not out and De Silva an undefeated 102 as Sri Lanka overtook Pakistan's 280 with 10 overs to spare. The pair put on a Sri Lankan one-day record stand of 213 for the third wicket.

Sri Lanka qualified for the final, where they meet South Africa on Saturday. Before that, the two teams meet each other in the last round-robin match in the tournament today.

GOLDEN JUBILEE QUADRANGULAR TROPHY (Lahore): Sri Lanka bt Pakistan by eight wickets.

Sri Lanka won toss

PAKISTAN
Shahid Afridi b Vaas 39
Saeed Anwar c Ranatunga b Vaas 28
Aamir Sohail c and b Muralitharan 70
Ijaz Ahmed c sub b S de Silva 94
Inzamam-ul-Haq c A de Silva b Jayasuriya 8
*Wasim Akram c L de Silva b Muralitharan 6
Moin Khan run out 10
Azhar Mahmood c L de Silva b S de Silva 15
†Rashid Latif c L de Silva b Vaas 1
Waqar Younis b S de Silva 1
Saqlain Mushtaq not out 1
Extras (lb6, w3) 9
Total 280

Fall: 1-65, 2-73, 3-195, 4-205, 5-214, 6-254, 7-269, 8-278, 9-278.

Bowling: Vaas 10-0-58-3; S de Silva 9.4-1-58-3 (w3); Dharmasena 10-1-41-0; Muralitharan 10-0-37-2; Jayasuriya 6-0-54-1; A De Silva 4-0-25-0.

SRI LANKA
S T Jayasuriya not out 134
M S Atapattu run out 23
R S Mahanama c Aamir b Azhar 0
P A De Silva not out 102
Extras (lb6, w13, nb-3) 22
Total (for 2) 281

Fall: 1-65, 2-68.

Did not bat: *A Ranatunga, H P Tillakaratne, †L de Silva, W P U J C Vaas, K Dharmasena, M Muralitharan, S K L De Silva.

Bowling: Wasim Akram 8-0-44-0 (nb2, w2); Waqar Younis 6-0-49-0 (w1); Saqlain Mushtaq 8-0-55-0; Azhar Mahmood 8-0-53-1 (nb1, w5); Aamir Sohail 5-0-32-0; Shahid Afridi 5-0-42-0 (w5).

● The former Northamptonshire captain Allan Lamb is poised for a return to his old county as a part-time consultant. The 42-year-old former England batsman, who retired from first-class cricket before the start of the 1996 season following a dispute over the publication of his autobiography, has had informal discussions with the club's chief executive, Steve Coverdale. "I have always said I would like to put something back into the game," he said. "There would be nowhere better to do it than Northampton. I have been there 19 years and if I could help them win things in the future then I would be happy."

TODAY'S NUMBER

2,200,000

The number of pounds lost by Saracens last season, their first as a professional rugby union club. This season, the club's wage bill for its 32 professional players and five coaches will be £1.8m. Corporate revenue, however, has increased from £423,000 for the whole of last season to £1m so far in 1997-98.

BASKETBALL

Giants recruit Rowsom

Manchester Giants and Derby Storm made two crucial signings yesterday.

Giants recruited the 6ft 10in centre Brian Rowsom, who spent two and a half seasons with Charlotte Hornets and Indiana Pacers, and have released Jabaar Jones to make way.

Towers have signed the former London Towers player, Tony Windless, who in his three seasons with them averaged 18 points and helped them to the 7-Up Trophy and Budweiser Championship last season.

SPORTING DIGEST

GOLF

Woods not worried by death threats

Tiger Woods confirmed yesterday that he had received several death threats since his astonishing rise to prominence in the sport.

"Unfortunately, I've had my share of threats since I was 16," said Woods, who turns 22 next month. "That's just the way life is when you're playing a sport that traditionally hasn't been a minority sport."

Woods became the first non-white player to win one of the four major championships with his 12-stroke victory in the Masters at Augusta National in April. He also clinched the PGA Tour money title on Sunday.

Woods played 21 tour events this season, plus the Ryder Cup, a tournament in Thailand and one in Australia. He said he would probably play slightly less frequently next year.

"A lot of times you get a little pressure from tournaments, from the commissioner, to play some of the weaker tournaments. Hence you play a couple more events per year that you normally wouldn't play," he said.

Baseball

Scott Rolen, the Philadelphia Phillies' third baseman, was named yesterday unanimous winner of the 1997 National League Rookie of the Year Award. The 22-year-old Rolen, who was named first on all 28 ballots in voting by baseball writers for a maximum 140 points, is only the eighth unanimous winner of the National League honour.

Basketball

NBA: Toronto 104 Golden State 86; Atlanta 82 Detroit 71; Cleveland 80 Indiana 77; New York 102 Boston 70; Seattle 118 Houston 94; Dallas 92 Vancouver 87; Milwaukee 110 Orlando 76; Washington 120 Denver 96; Phoenix 106 Utah 84; Portland 122 Minnesota 105; L A Lakers 101 Sacramento 98.

SAINSBURY'S CLASSIC COLA NATIONAL CUP Quarter-final draw: Thames Valley v Greater London; Birmingham v Worthing; Sheffield v Leicester; London Towers v Manchester.

TUESDAY'S LATE RESULTS: EuroCup: London Towers 89 Hapoel Eilat (1st) 78.

Boxing

Pete Reid, Birmingham's unbeaten heavyweight, will top the promotion at Bristol's Whitechurch Sports Centre on 15 November. Reid takes top billing following the withdrawal of Glenn Catley from his British middleweight title challenge against Burton's Neville Brown. Catley sustained a cut eye in training and Brown will have to wait until the new year to make the fifth defence of his title.

Cricket

Winston Davis, the former West Indian fast bowler, has been left partially paralysed after falling out of a tree in St Vincent. The 39-year-old Davis, who played for Northamptonshire, Glamorgan and Tasmania, was cutting branches for the Streams of Power Church group when he fell and hurt his spine.

PAKISTAN GOLDEN JUBILEE TOURNAMENT STANDINGS

	P	W	L	Pts
Sri Lanka	2	2	0	4
South Africa	2	2	0	4
Pakistan	3	1	2	2
West Indies	3	0	3	0

Football

Chesterfield have signed David Reeves, 29, in a swap deal from Preston, with another striker, Tony Lormor, and £130,000 going in the opposite direction.

Gateshead have appointed the former Halifax and Runcorn manager John Carroll, 37, as their sixth manager in eight years, following the resignation of Jim Platt 10 days ago.

Wolves are to sign Paul Simpson, their winger on loan from Derby. Wolves have won four of the six games Simpson has played in.

Robin Herd is stepping down as chairman of first division Oxford after two and a half years in charge to concentrate on business interests. The club's legal director, Keith Cox, moves up to managing director to take control.

Ice hockey

NHL: Los Angeles 3 New Jersey 0; Washington 2 Vancouver 1; Toronto 0 San Jose 0.

Olympic Games

Two decades after Los Angeles launched a successful bid for the 1984 Olympics, officials began a campaign to host the 2012 Games. "I do want to put in the record that we are going to do this the way we did it in 1984," Joel Wachs, the City councilman said on Tuesday. "We should make sure our intention is it not only be run by a private group, but that it be funded privately." The 1984 Olympics is billed as the most successful ever because of huge profits from the sale of television rights and corporate sponsors. The money continues to fund amateur athletics across Los Angeles County.

Pools dividends

LITTLWOODS: Treble Chance (max 24 pts) 2,060 prizes of £425.30; 38,753 prizes of £4.30. Half-time (max 23 pts). 31 prizes of £7,894.75. Other prizes: 1,784 prizes of £125; 8 prizes of £327.90, 1 prize of £3,992.00.

VERNONS: 24pts £132.00. 23pts £2.20. Super Shots: £23.50. (Paid on 3 correct).Premier 10 £20.00 (paid on 8 correct).

ZETTERS: Treble chance: 24pts £43.20, 23pts £0.60. Four draws £1.80. Eight homes £17.00. Four aways £135.40. Three draws £2.45. Fair five £55.70. Lucky Numbers 8, 15, 6, 32, 18, 8.

BRITTENS: Treble chance: 24pts £20. Four draws £2.50. Five aways £16.95 (paid on 4 correct). Eight homes £34.50.

Rugby League

The consortium which has set up a new club to succeed the liquidated Oldham Bears is negotiating with both Oldham Athletic and Rochdale over a ground to play on next season. At the launch of the club yesterday, the appointment of a new club was named as the first priority, with the return of Mike Ford as player-coach a possibility.

Sailing

Pete Goss has been given the Sperry World Sailor of the year award at the International Sailing Federation meeting in Gothenburg. The award is in recognition of his rescue last year of Raphael Dinelli, who is now partnering Goss on the 50ft BMW Performance in the 4000 mile two-handed Jacques Vabre transatlantic from Le Havre to Catagena.

Over 120 boats are expected to contest the 630-mile Telstra Sydney to Hobart Race, starting Boxing Day, including a Royal Navy team skippered by Mickey Broughton.

Speedway

Bradford, the Elite League champions, are to shut down for the next two seasons while Odsal Stadium is turned into a £250m Superdome. Work begins on the 65,000 all-seater indoor arena, which will have a sliding roof, early next year although Super League rugby will continue unaffected. Because of the massive building operation, constructors will need to use the existing speedway and stock car track, but motorsport promoters have been given guarantees that they will return when the Superdome opens in the year 2000.

Squash

MEN'S WORLD OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP (Kuala Lumpur, Malay) First round: A Khan (Pak) bt D Ryan (Rep Ir) 9-15 12-15 15-10 15-10 15-12; P Marshall (GB) bt S Martin (Aus) 15-10 11-15 15-13 11-15 15-12; D Jenson (Aus) bt T Garner (Eng) 13-15 8-15 15-9 15-13 15-12; J Power (Can) bt J Bonetat (Fr) 15-8 15-11 15-4; G Ryding (Can) bt D Harris (Eng) 15-13 17-14 9-15 15-12; A Hill (Aus) bt N Taylor (Eng) 15-7 15-10 15-10; C Wasnick (SA) bt Z Jahan (Pak) 17-15 15-7 15-10; R Eyles (Aus) bt A Wagih (Eg) 15-10 15-11 15-5.

Table tennis

The English Table Tennis Association have appointed Canadian-based Frenchman Michel Gadal as their new executive coach. Gadal, 44, who coached France to the European Championship four years ago, will take up his full time position in the new year.

Tennis

ATP TOUR TOURNAMENT (Santiago, Chile) Men's singles, first round: M Rios (Chile) bt D Sanguinetti (It) 6-2 7-5; H Gumy (Arg) bt F Vicente (Sp) 6-2 6-2; M Filippini (Uru) bt E Alvarez (Sp) 6-2 7-6; F Mantilla (Sp) bt J Diaz (Sp) 6-3 3-6 6-2; S Prieto (Arg) bt N Lapentti (Ec) 6-4 6-4; O Gross (Ger) bt K Alami (Mar) 7-5 6-2; F Clavet (Sp) bt V Spadea (US) 7-6 6-3; A Gaudenzi (It) bt T Haas (Ger) 6-3 6-2; A Martin (Sp) bt H Gimonet (Chile) 6-4 5-7 6-4; J Burillo (Sp) bt A Pavel (Rom) 6-4 6-7 7-5; J A Vicca (Sp) bt N Massu (Chile) 6-7 7-5 6-3.

AMERITECH CUP WOMEN'S TOURNAMENT (Chicago) Singles, first round: M Pierce (Fr) bt C Cristea (Rom) 6-3 6-3; B Schultz-McCarthy (Neth) bt Chanda Rubin (US) 6-4 7-5; L Raymond (US) bt H Sukova (Cz Rep) 6-2 6-2; M Grzybowska (Pol) bt J Capriati (US) 6-3 7-5. Second round: L Davenport (US) bt J Kruger (SA) 6-2 6-4; I Majoli (Croa) bt L Courtois (Bel) 7-5 6-1.

STOCKHOLM OPEN Singles, second round: K Kucera (Slo) bt T Muster (Aut) 4-6 6-3 6-3; P Rafter (Aus) bt J Van Kerck (Bel) 6-3, 6-4; C Pioline (Fr) bt M Talbott (Aus) 6-3 6-7 6-4.

KREMLIN CUP MEN'S TOURNAMENT (Moscow) Singles, second round: M Damm (Cz Rep) bt J Novak (Cz Rep) 7-6 6-4; Y Kafelnikov (Rus) bt B Black (Zim) 6-4 6-3; D Nestor (Can) bt J Sanchez (Sp) 6-4 6-4; W Black (Zim) bt J Krocklek (Swe) 6-1 7-6; D Vacek (Cz Rep) bt G Kuerten (Br) 6-2 6-4; P Korda (Cz Rep) bt K Carlsen (Den) 7-6 5-7 6-4; A O'Brien (US) bt H Dreekmann (Ger) 5-7 6-4 6-1; B Ullrich (Cz Rep) withdrew against S Sargsian (Arm).

FOOTBALL RESULTS

Yesterday

UEFA CUP Second round second leg: Anderlecht 1 Schalke 04 2 *(agg: 1-3)*.

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION First Division: Wimbledon 3 Luton 0.

Tuesday

UEFA CUP Second round second leg: Aston Villa 2 Athletic Bilbao 1 *(agg: 2-1)*; Liverpool 2 Strasbourg 0 *(agg: 2-3)*; Dynamo Tbilisi 0 Sporting Braga 1 *(agg: 0-5)*; Twente Enschede 0 AGF Aarhus 0 *(agg: 1-1, Twente win on away goals)*; Karlsruhe 1 Metz 1 *(agg: 3-1)*; Lazio 3 Rotor Volgograd 0 *(agg: 3-0)*; Croatia Zagreb 2 MTK Budapest 0 *(agg: 2-1)*; Lyon 1 Internazionale 3 *(agg 4-3)*; Udinese 2 Ajax 1 *(agg: 2-2. Ajax win on away goals)*; 1860 Munich 2 Rapid Vienna 1 *(agg 2-4)*; Real Valladolid 1 Spartak Moscow 1 *(agg: 1-4)*; OFI Iraklion 3 Auxerre 2 *(agg: 4-5)*; Bastia 3 Steaua Bucharest 2 *(agg: 3-3; Steaua win on away goals)*; PAOK Salonika 4 Atletico Madrid 4 *(agg: 6-9)*.

NATIONWIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE First Division: Birmingham 0 Bradford 0; Bury 2 Nottingham Forest 0; Crewe 0 Wolves 2; Ipswich 0 Stockport 2; Reading 0 Sheffield Utd 1; Stoke 0 Oxford Utd 0; Sunderland 0 Charlton 0; Tranmere 1 Huddersfield 0; West Bromwich 1 Norwich 0; Manchester City 2 Port Vale 3. Second Division: Blackpool 1 Northampton 1; Brentford 0 Carlisle 1; Bristol Rovers 1 Bristol City 2; Chesterfield 1 Gillingham 1; Luton 2 Burnley 3; Millwall 1 Fulham 1; Oldham 3 Wigan 1; Plymouth 4 Wycombe 2; Southend 0 Watford 3; Walsall 0 Grimsby 0; Wrexham 2 Bournemouth 1; York 1 Preston 0. Third Division: Doncaster 1 Cardiff 1; Hull 3 Exeter 2; Leyton Orient 3 Scarborough 1; Macclesfield 0 Colchester 0; Mansfield 3 Rotherham 3; Notts County 1 Chester 2; Peterborough 1 Shrewsbury 1; Rochdale 0 Lincoln City 0; Scunthorpe 3 Cambridge Utd 3; Swansea 0 Hartlepool 2; Torquay 2 Darlington 1.

REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: UniBond League XI 5 FA XI 0 *(at Leigh)*.

FA CARLSBERG VASE First-round replays: Wednesfield 4 King's Heath 0; Ware 2 Hillingdon 4; Devizes 0 Chippenham 4.

DR MARTENS LEAGUE Premier Division: Atherstone 0 Halesowen Town 0; Dorchester 2 Bath City 1; King's Lynn 1 Gresley Rovers 0. Southern Division: Cirencester 1 Weston-super-Mare 2; Margate 3 Erith & Belvedere 1. League Cup first round second leg: Brackley 0 Corby 2 *(agg: 2-3)*; Burton Albion 1 Tamworth 1 *(agg: 1-1)*; Fleet 1 Bashley 1 *(agg: 1-5)*; Weymouth 0 Havant 2 *(1-3)*.

UNIBOND LEAGUE Premier Division: Lancaster 1 Winsford 1. First Division: Great Harwood 2 Congleton 5; Lincoln Utd 3 Eastwood Town 0; Whitley Bay 3 Workington 0; Witton 2 Belper 0. League Cup second round: Guiseley 0 Bishop Auckland 3; Spennymoor 1 Whitby 1.

ISTHMIAN LEAGUE First Division: Leatherhead 5 Worthing 1; Staines 3 Berkhamsted 2. Second Division: Canvey Island 3 Cheshunt 0; Wivenhoe 0 Marlow 0. Guardian Insurance Cup second round: Aldershot 0 Dagenham & Redbridge 1; Basingstoke 1 Aveley 1 *(aet)*; Billericay 0 Purfleet 0 *(aet)*; Boreham Wood 4 Bognor Regis 3; Carshalton 1 Yeading 0; Clapton 1 St Albans 2; Gravesend & Northfleet 3 Wokingham 2 *(aet)*; Hampton 2 Walton & Hersham 3; Heybridge 0 Oxford City 1; Romford 4 Chertsey 1; Sutton Utd 3 Uxbridge 0. Full Members Cup first round: Dulwich Hamlet 0 Kingstonian 3.

JEWSON EASTERN LEAGUE Premier Division: Diss 1 Histon 1; Ely 1 Woodbridge 2; Great Yarmouth 4 Tiptree 1; Lowestoft 0 Sudbury Town 4. League Cup first round: Mildenhall 1 Hadleigh 3.

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE First Division: Langney Sports 1 Saltdean 2; Littlehampton 3 Hassocks 0; Pagham 0 Chichester 2; Shoreham 1 Selsey 0. John O'Hara League Cup second round: Oakwood 0 Horsham YMCA 3.

ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTHERN LEAGUE First Division: Dunston FB 0 South Shields 1; Easington 1 Northallerton 2; Morpeth 1 Bedlington 1; Tow Law 0 Consett 0.

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE First Division: Atherton Collieries 2 Darwen 2; Blackpool Rovers 2 Clitheroe 2; Newcastle Town 2 Vauxhall GM 1; Rossendale 1 Atherton LR 0; Warrington 0 Burscough 2.

SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE Premier Division: Backwell 3 Mangotsfield 2; Bristol Manor Farm 0 Paulton 1.

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE First Division: Hythe 1 Deal 0; Tunbridge Wells 5 Crockenhill 0; Whitstable 1 Greenwich Borough 1.

INTERLINK EXPRESS MIDLAND ALLIANCE: Rushall 1 Sandwell Borough 1.

UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE Premier Division: Boston Town 2 Stamford 0; Buckingham 0 Wellingborough 1; Coalville 4 Stotfold 3; Desborough 0 Spalding 0; Holbeach 1 Eynesbury 2; Kempston 0 Yaxley 1; Mirrless Blackstone 1 Bourne 0; Potton 1 Ford Sports 1; St Neots 1 Northampton Spencer 2; Stewarts & Lloyds Corby 1 Long Buckby 1.

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE Premier Division: Ballymena 0 Glenavon 0; Cliftonville 3 Coleraine 3; Portadown 0 Linfield 2.

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION First Division: Arsenal 3 Crystal Palace 0.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Football

7.30 unless stated

EUROPEAN CUP-WINNERS' CUP SECOND ROUND SECOND LEG
Chelsea (2) v Tromso (3) (7.45)

Other ties: VfB Stuttgart (4) v Germinal Ekeren (0); Kocaelispor (1) v Lokomotiv Moscow (2) (0,0); Vicenza (3) v Shakhtar Donetsk (1) (7,45); FC Copenhagen (0) v Real Betis (2) (0,0); Sturm Graz (0) v AEK Athens (2) (0,0); Slavia Prague (2) v Nice (2); Roda JC Kerkrade (2) v Primorje Ajdovscina (0).

UEFA CUP Second round second leg: VfL Bochum (0) v Club Bruges (Belgium) (1).

HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE OF IRELAND Premier Division: Dundalk v Shelbourne (7.45).

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION First Division: Norwich v Brighton.

FA CARLSBERG VASE First round: Armthorpe Welfare v West Allotment Celtic.

Ice hockey

BENSON AND HEDGES CUP Semi-final second leg: Newcastle Cobras (2) v Cardiff Devils (6) (7.0).

FOOTBALL

Ince sets sights on place in European Cup

Despite defeat in the Uefa Cup on Tuesday, European ambitions still loom large at Anfield. *Paul Walker* reports.

Paul Ince has vowed to drive Liverpool back into Europe next season – in the Champions' League.

The Anfield captain underlined the feeling of anger and loss that followed the elimination from the Uefa Cup in the second round by Racing Strasbourg, a club only 14th in the French League. To be dumped by such a team has hurt the Reds, so used to nights of glorious success against far better teams than the one Strasbourg put out to protect their 3-0 lead from the first leg.

Ince was defiant, after Tuesday's 2-0 win for Liverpool saw his side go out 3-2 on aggregate. "It's disappointing to be out of Europe, it means so much to everyone at this club," he said. "We are absolutely gutted, mainly because we didn't feel we got the run of the ball when we needed it most in the second leg.

"Everyone is determined that we will be back in Europe next season, it is too important to this club. We must make sure we are in Europe again, with a good Premiership position that puts us in the Champions' League."

The Uefa Cup was a poor second prize for Liverpool at the end of last season, when for so long they had looked championship favourites. But their fade out at the end did not even ensure they finished second, allowing Newcastle to sneak in and grab the European Cup Champions' League place allocated to the runners-up.

Now Ince, who had an outstanding game in midfield alongside the equally impressive Jamie Redknapp, believes Liverpool have to get their act together in the championship race. He said: "We must get our heads up, concentrate on our games with the next one against Spurs on Saturday."

Ince believes Liverpool proved themselves a better team than Strasbourg. He said: "We lost the tie out there with our display in the first leg. Last season, before I was at Liverpool, the club lost in identical fashion against Paris St-Germain.

"But I believe we didn't get the chances in that one, this time we created four or five more openings, and with a display like that proved we are a better team than them. We didn't get what we deserved, we didn't get the run of the ball when it mattered. But we gave it everything, the fans were fantastic and we didn't get the extra goals we deserved."

The Liverpool manager, Roy Evans, reckons that the shambolic defeat in France in the first leg could serve as a turning point in a topsy-turvy season that sees his underachieving side labouring behind the front runners – particularly Manchester United.

Evans said: "If we can keep working as hard as we did in the Strasbourg game, I know we can go on to better things in the League. The players are disappointed in the fact that we can be so inconsistent. But if they work as hard as that on a regular basis, you might not always play as well, but 99 times out of 100 you would get a result.

"I believe we can get there. Over the last three games since the first leg we have done much better. We beat Derby, it didn't quite go how we would have liked at Bolton but we still got a point, and now this one, I can ask for no more effort."

Evans reckons the tide could well have turned. He added: "We have been on the up since Strasbourg, particularly in the commitment of the players in training sessions and games. They have taken that responsibility and it has improved us in many ways.

"But the earlier form has put us out of the competition. But at least we have gone out with a fight, with all guns blazing. With a touch of fortune we would still be it. We must take credit from that.

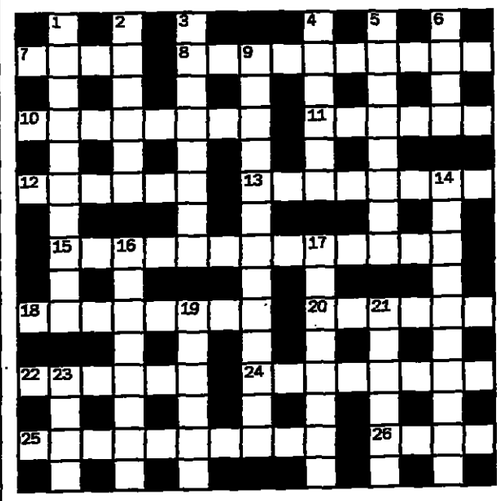
"We took all the stick and the flak from the Strasbourg game, quite rightly, it was fair criticism. But I think the boys deserve the praise this time for the way the went about their job. We lost the tie over there, to come back from 3-0 is very difficult.

"I can only praise the lads for having the belief to go out there and think they can achieve the result we wanted."

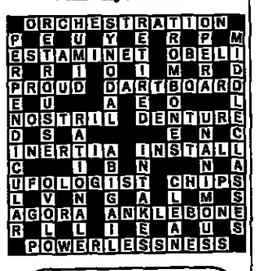
Liverpool now face successive home games against two Premiership strugglers, Tottenham and Barnsley, with a Coca-Cola Cup tie at home against Grimsby sandwiched between those two games.

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No. 3449 Thursday 6 November — By Mass



Wednesday's solution



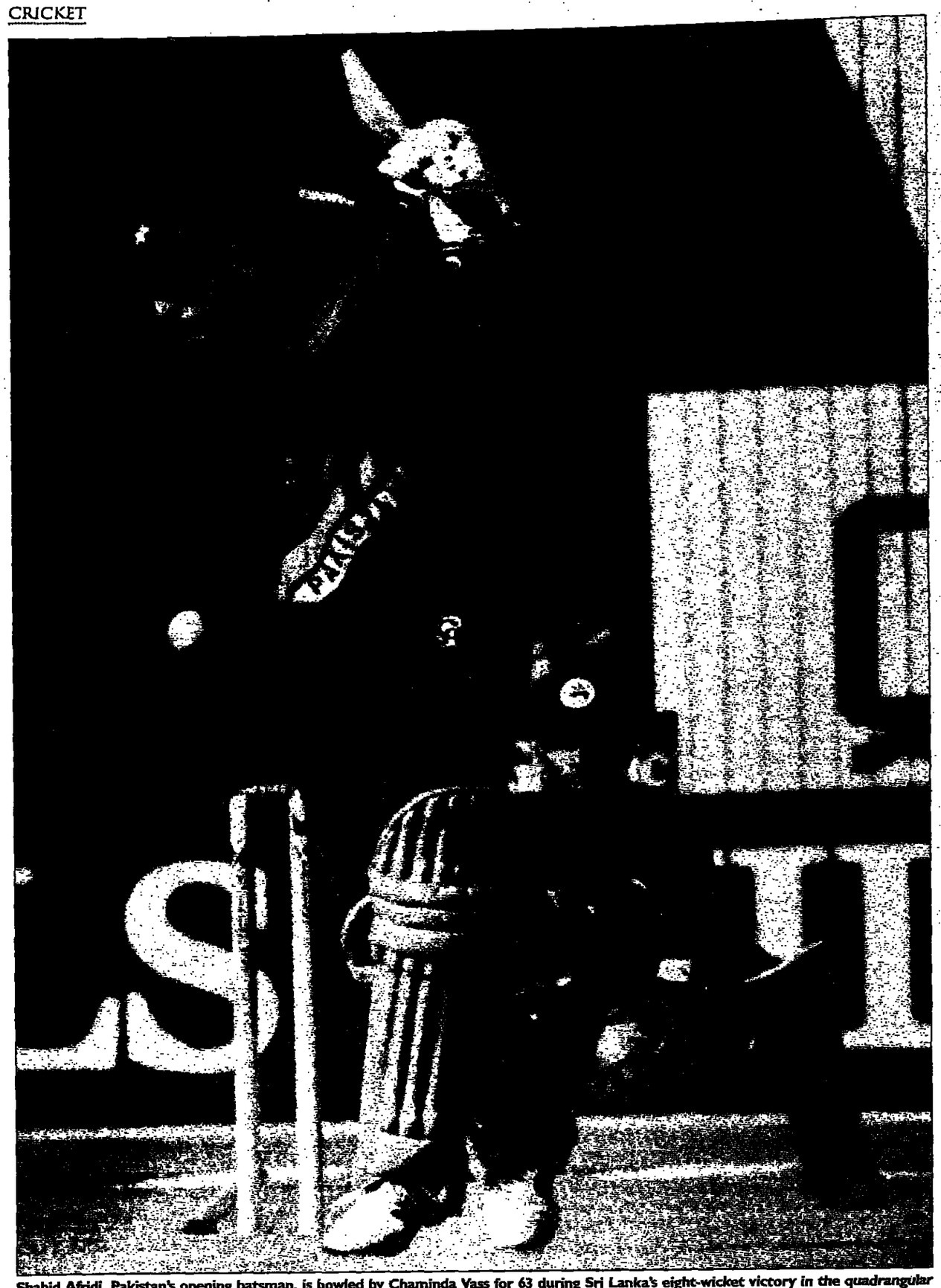
ACROSS

7 Discharge from river, reportedly ... (4)
8 ...possible cause of a vile beach (10)
10 Rook's imbued with heart of early bird (8)
11 Birds beginning to develop combs (6)
12 Excessive figures of speech (3-3)
13 Delight in erected house skirted by rolling Northern river (8)
15 An admiral's authority? (13)
18 Key sequence for piano in version of 'Georgia' (8)
20 Girl's bitten into keen fruit (6)
22 Does it prevent leaks in laundrette? (6)
24 Garment in trendy yellow's better (8)
25 Pop letters in going back from house (10)
26 Irritate, ignoring the Parisian's call (4)

DOWN

1 Study fisherman's dial? (10)
2 Creature about to climb into pine (6)
3 Plant with dead stem I force up (8)
4 Sentence expressing ridicule (4,2)
5 Meal for Scot, one yielding iron (8)
6 Outlet's bolted, we hear (4)
9 It's an attribute of mine (4,9)
14 Meddled? Pried? Tel. No. should be changed (10)
16 Tom's likely to see through this kind of thing (4-4)
17 Hollow? Former warning has point at last (8)
19 Bug a North European (6)
21 Ascetic, see, absent in spirit (6)
23 Briefly state word of grief (4)

CRICKET



Shahid Afridi, Pakistan's opening batsman, is bowled by Chaminda Vass for 63 during Sri Lanka's eight-wicket victory in the quadrangular one-day cricket tournament in Lahore yesterday

Match report, scoreboard, page 31; Photograph: B K Bangash/AP

RUGBY LEAGUE

Wigan set to announce the reappointment of an uncommon coach

The most successful coach in British rugby league history will today return to the scene of his triumphs. *Dave Hadfield* awaits the second coming of John Monie.

Wigan will today confirm the reappointment of John Monie as the club's coach – a role he relinquished in 1994 after four hugely successful seasons.

The new Wigan chairman, Mike Nolan, admitted yesterday that Monie had agreed a two-year deal to assume control at Central Park once more.

It was news the board had hoped to suppress until the current Wigan coach, Eric Hughes, had been told the bad news. Hughes, who had been in charge for nine months, has been out of the country on holiday, but is now thought to be back. Attempts to contact him were, as of last night, unsuccessful, but the whole business will give him a dismal feeling of déjà vu.

The former Great Britain centre was sacked at St Helens less than two years ago to make way for one Australian, Shaun McRae, and is now being ditched – after a season that ended with Wigan winning the Premiership – for another.

But Monie is – even to those who resent the extent of Antipodean influence in the game here – no ordinary Australian and no ordinary coach.

His four seasons saw Wigan dominate all domestic competitions and set new standards in the game here. He has never been a believer in returning to the scene of former successes, but his experiences since have left him with something to prove.

His reign as the inaugural coach with the Auckland Warriors – for whom he left Wigan – was a disappointment and ended with him being sacked this season.

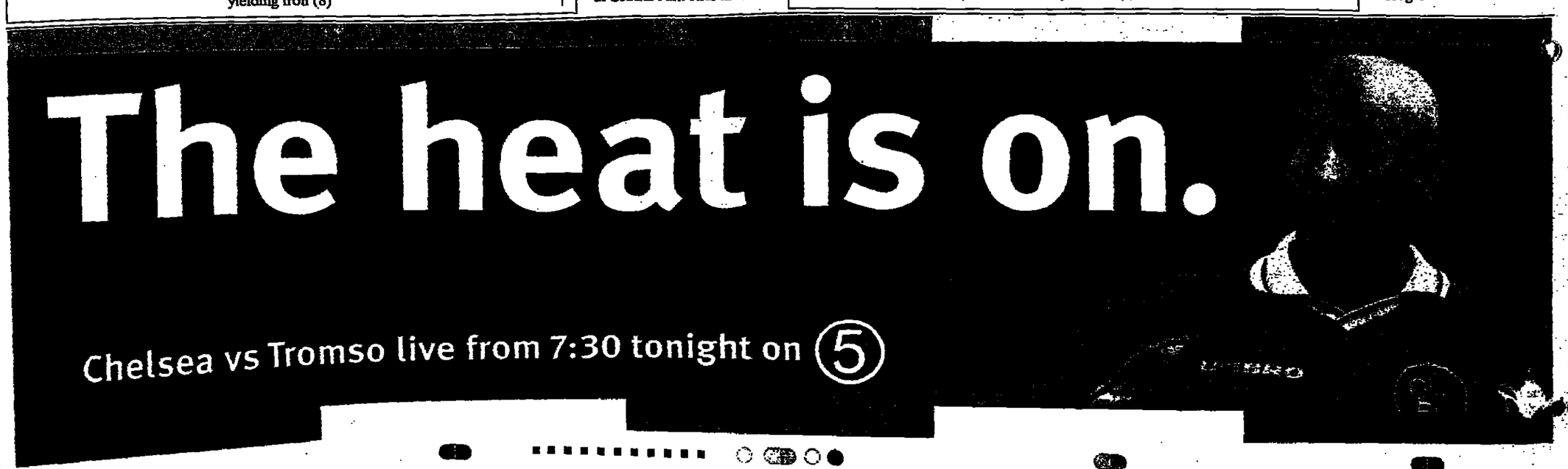
Since then, it has looked inevitable that he would return to Britain, where his reputation remains sky-high, but Leeds or projected franchises in Wales or Scotland were alternative destinations.

The new regime at Wigan, which bailed the club out of financial crisis last week, has moved swiftly to ensure that he will stage his British comeback at Central Park.

"He is the best there is," Nolan said. "He will be left to get on with the playing side and, if he needs players, the money will be available."

Despite rumours to that effect, Wigan will not appoint a high-profile co-coach, like Great Britain's Andy Goodway, to work alongside Monie. Simply bringing back the man most closely associated with their great days of the recent past is enough.

©Published by Newspaper Publishing PLC, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, and printed at Mirror Colour Print, St Albans Road, Watford. Back issues available from Historic Newspapers, 01988 840370.
Thursday 6 November 1997 Registered as a newspaper with the Post Office



هكذا من الاصل